

Environmental Commission
Minutes – August 22, 2019

Role Call / Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Eric Duch, Dana Flynn, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison) and Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison). Also present were Gerald Murphy (potential new member) and Ron Farr (Township Forester). Nicole Member, guest from Stanhope EC also participated.

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this meeting has been made with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

Review of July 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Jim to accept the minute with one change (Phil Crosson is not the Township’s new Recreation Director. As part of his responsibility, he helps facilitate the events the Recreation Committee is planning).

Committee Reports:

- MPMC – meeting was held in Asbury on August 20th. Michelle reported that the Wild & Scenic Film Festival Fundraiser will be held in Centenary on Saturday Sept. 7th from 12-5pm. She will drop off flyers to be posted at Town Hall and this will be sent to EC members as well.
- Recreation – meeting was held on August 19th, no report available.
- Open Space – meeting was held on August 12th. Eric advised that members offered their opinions to change the location of the Invasive Species barberry removal event to Tamarack Trail. This will be discussed with Township management.
- Council – Harvey reported that the bond ordinance passed and the Building Sub Committee will be meeting with Council.

New Business:

- Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) Review With Township Forester – Ron reviewed the current CFMP goals. Ron explained that the goals/accomplishments in the Forestry Plan can be used when applying for grant funding through CSIP. Members discussed new plan goals. Ron asked for the EC accomplishments for the last five years. Ron will prepare draft goals and provide them to EC for their comment.

One potential goal discussed involved removal of invasive species. Ron discussed invasive species (both plants and insects) including the Spotted Lantern Fly. Spotted Lantern Flies are usually found on Ailanthus Trees. It was suggested to do a garlic mustard pull in May along the trails.

- Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) – EC’s comments on HAB were included in the Annual Stormwater Letter mailing. These included stressing to residents to not use Nitrogen fertilizer; however, landscapers can apply it. Members felt it was a helpful program overall.

A letter was sent to Township Council on this topic from a Forest Lakes resident. He expressed concern about the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorus as residents are posting comments on Facebook telling other lake residents not to use fertilizers. Currently, there is an ordinance (263-3) that prohibits use of fertilizer that contains phosphorus (however this is within Lake Mohawk Country Club only).

Old Business:

- Lot Disturbance/Coverage Research – Lisa researched Lot Coverage by researching all neighboring towns, pulling the data together. Byram is the only town that doesn't have an ordinance.
- Emerald Ash Borer Update – Invasive Species/Briar Ridge Trail South Blazing Project Update – Quote for \$200 was received from NJ Invasives Strike Team which included a presentation and participation in our barberry removal on the trail. Two sample presentations were obtained and sent to members to review. Members requested the presentations to be resent and this will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Katie/Helene will be asked to write a small article for the local papers including the Township Journal to advertise this event with the goal of having it published by the 3rd week of September.

Nicole from Stanhope EC participated in the discussion in Invasive Species and hopes they can be a partner for future events. Their goal is to create an Invasive Species Taskforce between towns. They are thinking of having a possible May event. Nicole was invited to attend the October 5th event.

Waterloo Village was mentioned as a good site location to hold the field portion of the event. Nicole indicated that there are invasive species present that could be pointed out.

- Annual SW Letter – has been sent out this month
- Community Wildlife Habitat – Questions from last month's meeting were submitted to the National Wildlife Federation and are awaiting their response.
- NJ Forest Action Plan Survey – Members were thanked for providing their comments to the survey. Comments were submitted to Township Management and will be reviewed with Open Space Committee.
- Plastic Bag Ban Update – There was no update on status of bill. A discussion took place regarding if it would be appropriate for the town to develop a plastics ban ordinance or monitor the progress of a plastics ban from the state.

Planning Board Applications:

None to review

Training:

8/14 – NJUCF Training “Quantifying Rainfall Interception in the Urban Canopy” – Mike (DPW Superintendent) participated. The next NJUCF webinar will be held September 11th; the topic is not yet available. Members were reminded to request the certificate to obtain CEUs.

8/20 – ANJEC Sponsored HAB Public Forum – Jim reported he attended this forum.

Membership:

Council approved the request for Gerald Murphy to join EC as Alternate II member. EC members welcomed Gerry. EC is fully staffed at this time.

Expenditures and Budget:

Balance of \$2,100 remains.

Next Meeting:

Will be held on September 26, 2019.

Other:

- September 27th - Byram Fest from 5-9pm at CO Johnson Park and include food trucks and fireworks. Members asked if we could make a poster/sign to advertise the Oct. 5th event.
- October 5th – Invasive Species Talk/Briar Ridge Trail South Blazing Project (to be confirmed)
- October 12th – Hudson Farms Charity Hike
- October 19th – E-Waste Day at SCMUA
- November 2nd – Hazardous Waste Day at SCMUA
- Radon Test Kits – are available at Town Hall if interested let Donna know so she can reserve one for you. These are provided by BOH from a state grant.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by James, seconded by Eric, to adjourn at 9:45 pm.