

Environmental Commission Minutes
December 16, 2019

Role Call / Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Michelle Rehse, Dana Flynn, Eric Duch, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council representative) and Donna Fett (Secretary).

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

Review of November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by James to accept the meeting minutes.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Michelle reported that the Scenic Film Festival went very well but they would like to increase participation next year. Centenary’s professors may encourage students to participate. In addition, MRMC will encourage municipalities to make financial donations. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 17th and there will be a presentation on water quality with an update to the Rutgers Water Study. Municipalities have been asked to provide updates on programs in place to manage septic systems in their towns. Byram’s details were provided to Michelle. Michelle clarified that Alan Hunt (Executive Director) is not leaving MRMC, rather he was promoted to Director of Policies and Grants. He will remain with MRMC and a new Executive Director will be hired.
- Recreation – no update available.
- Open Space – Greener by Design provided an update on the project and deliverables. There is a reorganization expected in February with 3 positions that will be vacated.
- Council – Harvey reported that Council will be reviewing options for a second emergency access for East Brookwood area and the two ordinances that are under consideration. Brief discussion on these occurred.

New Business:

- Climate Change Project Support – Katie Parrish gave a brief reminder of what was discussed last month and presented additional information on how EC / Township could help support. Options to consider included:
 - Recommend a moratorium on new and unnecessary fossil fuel projects until the policies get implemented
 - Implement electric charging stations or tax rebate for residents who purchase electric vehicles. Katie obtain and send sample resolutions
 - Send letters to local businesses to encourage reduction of plastic bag use

- EC Annual Accomplishments – members reviewed the draft accomplishments and recommended to include their work on the NJUCF grant.

Old Business:

- Lot Coverage Research – members reviewed materials previously distributed and discussed other town’s definitions of lot coverage, pervious and impervious surfaces and areas within Byram which have extensive lot disturbance. James will prepare a draft document and this will be discussed at the January meeting. It was suggested that perhaps we reach out to our Township Planner to obtain additional information, if needed (subject to Township Management approval).
- Community Forestry Management Plan – changes recommended by EC were incorporated and the final version will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Community Wildlife Habitat – Katie B. was not present, but sent an update email that she was working on the butterfly certification and contacted Patti Poff. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting
- Tilcon Quarry License Application – James reviewed the Tilcon Quarry Application Binder and had the following comments on the maps. There are no comments to the information within the binder itself:
 - Tract Map Page 1 of 4 – Ownership of Several Blocks/Lots is incorrect. The below blocks/lots are shown as Byram Land Development and should be changed to Tilcon. 226/5, 226/6 and 226/7
 - Existing Conditions / 1 Year Development Plan – Noted that “Equipment Storage Area” and “Scale House” are on map and are not on the property.
- NJUCF Grant – the Township was awarded a \$10,000 grant to prepare a hazardous tree inventory on trees on Township owned properties. A brief discussion occurred on how ROWs were determined.
- Annual Recycling Postcard – was brought to the post office for distribution. Clean Communities funds were used for the printing costs.

Planning Board Applications – None

Membership: Lisa Shimamoto, Dana Flynn and James Myers renewed their terms. Thank you! Jim Reinhold elected not to renew his term. EC members regretfully accepted his decision, which leaves one position open. Members thanked Jim for his many years of service.

Training: Members did not participate in any training this past month. Donna confirmed that we exceeded the required NJUCF CEU’s this year!

Expenditures and Budget: \$1900 remains

- A request was received to consider a \$150 donation to Passaic River Coalition. After reviewing the request and website, EC could not determine a benefit to our donating.
- A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Lisa to allocate \$1,000 of the 2019 budget to purchase re-useable bags in 2020. Donna will discuss with Finance.

- If EC votes to participate in the Community Wildlife Habitat after Katie B.'s follow-up next month, the funds will come out of the 2020 budget.
- Members discussed some ideas for 2020 projects requiring funds including giveaways for Byram Day (re-useable bags, decals), invasive species workshop (speaker fee), payment of our annual dues and training classes.

Other:

- Update on informal Trails meeting held by Stanhope EC – Scott reported that Stanhope EC is working with NJTPA to create a handicapped assessible connector trail around Lake Hopatcong. This trail will go through Stanhope, Netcong, Hopatcong and portions of Byram including Sussex Branch and Byram Island. Stanhope EC was excited to learn about the boardwalk trail on Byram Island. This will be a long term project.
- A new alternate for Musconetcong River Management Council is needed to replace Jim Reinhold. Michelle shared that MRMC meets every other month and the meeting location alternates between Asbury and Allamuchy. This will be added to next month's agenda.
- Township Leaf & Brush areas are closed through the end of March (weather dependent)

Next Meeting – will be held on January 23, 2020

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn at 9:10pm was made by Lisa, seconded by Eric.