

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2023 - 7:30 PM

Dana Flynn	Chairperson	X
Eric Duch	Co-Chairperson	X
Lisa Shimamoto	Member	X
Peter Dlugos	Member	X
James Myers	Member	X
Christine Aboulhosn	Member	
	Member	
	Alternate 1	
	Alternate 2	
Andrew McElroy	Planning Board Liaison	X
Harvey Roseff	Council Liaison	X
N/A	Secretary	

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:36 pm.

Open Public Meeting Statement- Adequate notice of this Zoom meeting has been published specifying the time and access information in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has also been electronically sent to the newspapers and uploaded to Byram’s website, at not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Environmental Commission Secretary.

Public Participation – N/A

Review of Meeting Minutes – Add X next to Peter’s name on September minutes, and upon revision, motion to accept by James, seconded by Lisa.

Planning Board Applications –

- Volonnino –EC Comments:
 - If there is no bulkhead present, a 10-foot wide vegetated lakefront buffer is recommended.
 - How will the garage be accessed? Gravel or paved?
 - Recommend native landscaping along the garage or add a rain garden to capture excess runoff.
 - Do any of the adjacent trees need to be removed?

Committee Reports

- MRMC – Last meeting, October 17; Next meeting December 12
 - MRMC is reviving a Junior Ranger Program for kids
 - DEP Outside Together Plan – MRMC commented on this regarding state outdoor recreation, notably to shift to developing recreation opportunities on existing/available land, increase signage, initiate dam removals, etc.

- MRMC/MWA received a grant to build a Musconetcong educational trail near Asbury. Peter suggested that we see if the EC can utilize similar resources for grants, will speak with Alan Hunt.
- MRMC currently fighting a proposed development on the Musconetcong in Hampton.
- Recreation – Last meeting, October 16; Next meeting November 20
 - Peter did not attend. No updates.
- Open Space – Last meeting, October 9 (canceled); Next meeting December 11
 - No updates.
- Council – Last meeting, October 17; Next meeting November 8
 - Nothing new – election coming with 9.7 million (17,000 sq ft. building) bond referendum.
 - Plans from August are on website for viewing.

New Business

- Volunteer Trail Work recap – Great work by all, Eric and Peter were pleased with the turnout and what they accomplished. Social media advertising helped and nearly all tools were used.
 - Peter asked about naming these preserved areas. Harvey recommended drafting a proposed name and why we fill it is in important, vote, and send to Council. Dana will add to following agendas for discussion. Cheryl White may know how to do this – was PB secretary for years.
 - Harvey – Sussex County Trails Partnership has strong interest in trails – Chamber of Commerce – suggested inviting them to Byram Trail meetings.
 - Peter suggested doing 1-3 more volunteer days/year and then small/informal days in between, where needed.
- MWA Flow Together Workshop recap –
 - Pleased with turnout (best of a MWA workshop yet), collected info from attendees and MWA will return in January/Feb for second workshop and then develop Watershed Management Plan (thru 2050).
 - Dana to check-in on the status of the Lake Management Plan and ask if we can we be present at a meeting with Princeton Hydro.
 - Septic, fertilizer/pesticides/insecticides raised as biggest issues in Byram.
 - Deer Management - James – Open Space listed huntable properties in Byram, look back into this in spring.
- Winter hike/educational event(s) – Possibly Wolf Lake Trail on January 6 – Full moon Saturday – Wolf Moon.
- Seed package usage – EC members will use remaining packets.
- Mission Statement – Continue to develop moving forward.
- 2024 Meeting Dates - December 26 will not work – ask for Tuesday Dec 17. Can use other room. Motion made by Lisa to change date, seconded by James.

Harvey – Asked for feedback on Waterloo Day event. BTHS is considering doing an event there again next year but not in June – would EC attend? Most members said yes and suggested fall or spring.

Peter – Asked if any updates to CO Johnson have involved an outdoor classroom? Harvey suggested making a recommendation to include this in COJ plans. Brainstorm at future meetings.

Add ANJEC Resolution(s) to November agenda

Old Business

- Peter’s Facebook page – followers went from 4 to 43
- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers – status/2013 grant – Remove from agendas until we have Township help.
- Mansfield Trail Superfund Site Update – CAG held recent meeting. Permits need to be obtained to do work on pump station building and water line – fall of 2024. Additional monitoring will take place in Dec. Levels are currently OK and high levels have not been observed since the last spike. In the next phase (design phase), the focus will be on how to treat remaining TCE that is in ground and in water, and the best way to extract the chemical (biological means, etc.). Soil excavation and stormwater management will eventually occur. The design phase will occur in the fall of 2024 design and subsequently, funding will be obtained and the work will go to bid. Mansfield is a top priority under Superfund Sites due to the proximity of residents (approximately 21 homes affected).

Training

-Peter participated in an ANJEC session on communication – 1.5 CEUs. ANJEC recommended us presenting at council periodically, share what we are doing. Suggested presenting an annual report and recapping events, etc. ANJEC has sample press releases for use. Also recommended that we make contacts across town (lake communities). EC/Byram needs 2 additional training CEUs before mid-December.

Membership

-Alternate I and Alternate II positions remain vacant.

Budget –

- -2023 EC Purchases:
 - Water bottles, others – bottles + stickers
 - Motion mad to spend up to \$883 water bottles for 50th anniversary by Eric, seconded by Lisa. All in favor. Need to find approved vendor for bottle purchase (possibly the same one where recycled pens were purchased). Eric will email Ashleigh.

Other – None

Next Meeting to be held November 30, in-person.

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:32 PM by Dana, seconded by Lisa.