

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
June 22, 2023 - 7:30 PM

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

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:42pm.

**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 – June 22, 2023 – Motion to accept by Christine, seconded by Peter.**

**Planning Board Applications –**

- [SP6-2023-05.31.2023 Tomahawk Lake](#) - EC Comments:
  - New parking area will create compacted, impervious soil and stormwater runoff will increase. Please share any plans to address stormwater management in this area.
  - Need to address how potential automotive fuel/fluid runoff will be handled. Is there a contingency plan?
  - EC recommends additional native, dense landscaping along downslope edges of the new parking area
  
- [Z15-2023-07.20.2023 Nicole Farrell](#)- EC Comments:
  - No comments.
  
- [Z14-2023-06.23.2023 Laura Sullivan and Eric Salvesen](#)— EC Comments:
  - Consider where gutters will drain and where runoff will flow.
  - EC recommends adding native landscaping to absorb and filter stormwater runoff.
  - There is a NJ EMS site mapped on the property - appears to be in reference to a malfunctioning septic system. Was this resolved?

## **Committee Reports**

MRMC –No July meeting. Peter went to MRMC Asbury office and met with Ryan J. (community engagement manager) who provided information on their upcoming events and may be interested in speaking to Byram residents. Events – Aug. 26 paddle at Saxton Lake 9:30 AM; RiverTalks – Septic 101 in Asbury; and fundraising at Czig Meister Brewing in Hackettstown to benefit MWA.

Recreation –July meeting cancelled. Town passed ordinance that Rec will report to new director once hired. Dana mentioned speaking to Danielle Conroy from Rec about getting the PTA involved for future events for local kids.

Open Space –No update.

Council – Upcoming BTHS events: Beefsteak dinner and Dragon Boat Race at Cranberry Lake.

## **New Business**

-Waterloo BTHS Event Recap – Decent turn out considering the weather. Provided ANJEC wheel of knowledge, seeds, reusable bags.

- Recreation Hikes – Shawn from Rec has no hikes scheduled till possibly fall of 2023. Peter suggested a hike to Cranberry Overlook in early fall with a clean-up.

-Mission Statement – To be discussed at future meetings.

-Stormwater Letter- Dana recommended that the EC push back on the stormwater letter and determine why it is sent out annually (State requirement/points system for stormwater?) and why the EC is not permitted to change any language, but only add to a 4-page letter. EC agreed that the letter needs to be significantly reduced and made more palatable to the general public.

-Peter’s Facebook Page- Peter created a page named Friends of Byram Open Space. Provides information on the trails, upcoming EC events, and to hopefully be a community hub for groups in Byram.

-Dana to add educational programming to future agendas – family/kids.

## **Old Business**

- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers- Lisa suggested looking into the grant from 2013 to see where the funds went. Was work done in 2014-2015? Done at all? Suggested reaching out to Donna Fett (EC Secretary at that time).

-Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – Lisa noted that testing will occur in the fall 2023.

## **Training**

-Need 4 more certificates for the year. Dana will send out training links when she sees them. Christine volunteered to take an upcoming training course.

## **Membership**

-Alternate I and Alternate II positions remain vacant.

## **Budget –**

- -2023 EC Purchases:
  - Signage, supplies
  - Others
  - New Banner - \$130
  - Seeds - \$225
  - ANJEC yearly membership cost - \$400
  - Remaining budget - \$2,221.48

## **Other**

**Next Meeting to be held August 24, in-person.**

**Motion to Adjourn –** was made at 9:06 PM by Lisa, seconded by Peter.