

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2023 - 7:30 PM

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

Call meeting to order, meeting opened at 7:38 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 – Motion to accept by Peter, seconded by Eric.

Planning Board Applications –

- No plans for review.

Committee Reports

MRMC –Next meeting October 17.

- Peter spoke with Alan Hunt about possibly getting a grant for a new canoe launch on Waterloo Road. Would need Township to approve, MRMC would apply for funds.
- Peter asked MRMC if they would do a paddle program on Lubber’s Run. Also noted doing an EC-sponsored paddle event in the spring.

Recreation –Last meeting September 15. New director is Debbie Armeno. No other updates.

Open Space –August meeting cancelled. Noted ongoing work at CO Johnson basketball courts.

Council – No updates.

New Business

-Volunteer Trail Work – Decided upon October 22 at Cranbury Overlook connector on Indian Spring Road. 9-12 AM. Eric coordinated with Jersey Signs for event signage. Motion to not exceed spending \$350 on 20 signs made by Lisa, seconded by James. Dana will find remaining seeds and bags for handout at trail event.

-MWA Flow Together Workshop – October 24 – 6:30-8 PM. Peter will invite Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Committee members. Discussed inviting lake communities. Peter will ask Phil to send a Nixle and post on the government page.

-ANJEC Environmental Congress – virtual sessions – Motion made to spend \$25 to attend by James, seconded by Christine. Peter to attend.

-Fall/winter hike – full moon hike was discussed, possibly New Year’s Day hike. Peter mentioned doing a “mindfulness in nature” class and can coordinate with Rec.

-Peter mentioned getting gear for the EC’s 50th anniversary in 2024. Group to look into/discuss options.

-Mission statement – ongoing discussion. Needs to include education/awareness, conservation, recreation and use, along with management of natural resources.

Old Business

-Facebook page – Dana to ask LVYBSL how they manage their Facebook page/structure.

- Grant for conservation easements and waterfront landscape buffers- Lisa will send a conclusion email to Alex, copying Joe about the status of this and the grant previously obtained for this task.

-Mansfield Trail Superfund Site – Meeting in October will provide updates.

Training

-Need 2 more certificates for the year. Dana attended NJ Forestry Association’s presentation on beech leaf disease and NRCS mitigation programs for tree mortality. Dana to coordinate with Joe and/or Mike O. about who is logging training.

Membership

-Alternate I and Alternate II positions remain vacant.

Budget –

- -2023 EC Purchases:
 - Discussed and approved signage purchase from Jersey Signs (see New Business)
 - Trail tools- Eric provided overview of tools to purchase. Members helped to reduce the list to a lower cost. Motion by Lisa to spend up to \$1000 on tools, seconded by Eric. All in favor.
 - Discuss 2024 purchases at next meeting

Other – Do we want to cancel the December 28 meeting? No conclusion made.

Next Meeting to be held October 26, in-person.

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:44 PM by James, seconded by Peter.