

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA, MARCH 26, 2015

Call to order and attendance. February 26 minutes for approval.

Correspondence and updates:

Sustainable Jersey: Offering help to obtain certification—short on-line survey and April 1 webinar at 1 – 2 p.m. Scott and Michelle are contacts. Byram is registered, not certified. The \$10,000 Conservation Easement Grant came from here.

45th Earth Day: April 22. NJDEP website: www.earthdayNJ.org.

Multiple Republican bills passed in House of Representatives to make USEPA Science Advisory Board more industry-friendly, reduce academic scientists on the panel, allow various conflicts of interest if disclosed, nullify rules unless research (including confidential health info) is all disclosed and can be independently replicated.

Depave—Oregon non-profit promoting removal of asphalt: Replace unnecessary paving at parking lots etc. with pervious surfaces. Depaved 123,000 sf of asphalt, managing 2.9 million gallons of stormwater on-site.

NJDEP Treatment Works Approval (TWA) for relocation of septic at Jefferson Lakes Day Camp: New buildings.

BEM Systems Response Action Outcome Notice for Stanhope Electrical Facility PI ID: 031965: Consultants report on fuel tank spills at NJDOT facility on Route 206 in Byram. Unclear what this response answers regarding this site. *John reviewed it.*

Citizens Guide to Wetlands and the New Jersey Wetland Rules: Good, brief summary.

Business:

Soil ordinance: Subcommittee of John, Katie, Dave to produce draft ordinance to be submitted to Planning Board and Council at once.

Planning Board:

- Applications:

- ✓ Douglas Paul, 300 Stag Pond Rd., approved.
- ✓ Lake Mohawk Pool & Spa: for parking easement on residential lot and for turning tennis courts into parking area; no current application for houses on two residential lots. On April 16 PB agenda; James reviewed.
- ✓ Garrity, Laurel Cove, Cranberry Lake: addition on lakeshore home; on April 2 PB agenda; Donna reviewed.
- ✓ Edwards application: Returning to Board on April 2. Letter from NJDEP: unauthorized placement of 100 sf of rock/boulder fill within water and removal of vegetation/alteration of topography due to grading and terracing within 25' of water. Edwards must remove all fill in the lake or within 25 feet of water and dispose of offsite or on-site if meets Permit by Rule; obtain a permit to legalize the unauthorized activities; stabilize all soils with seed and straw (Edwards must still comply with Byram's buffering requirements, which do not include grass).
- ✓ Lanci approval: all walls coming down because of past construction problems but foundation to remain; house still to be built according to Planning Board approvals.
- ✓ Steep slope ordinance: in general has been applied, whether or not an actual approval or permit has been sought. Make this clear in the ordinance?

Trails:

- Spring trail work and National Trails Day (June 1: work at Johnson Lake; repairs needed on Jefferson-Glen Bike Trail). Rob Davidson of the Salt Shakers offers their help with these projects (including the ANJEC grant—see below). March 28 trail maintenance workshop at Salt (Jim).
- Applications available for federal Recreational Trails grants (maximum \$24,000 plus 20% match; application due April 30).
- 2015 ANJEC grants for open space stewardship: Application for \$1,500 to remove downed trees at Brookwood Park (with in-kind supplied by work on trails and bench/picnic table work at the Park).
- 20 trailhead signs: DPW purchasing 5 more posts (which need shaping) plus hardware; DPW will affix signs to posts; Township Manager will rent augur to install with EC help.

Forestry:

- No Net Loss tree planting grant application: Submitted to NJDEP 12/18/14 for \$317,554. Planting plan for 1,058 trees due by mid 2015—Architectural Review Committee recommendations; Lisa's planting plan for C.O. Johnson.
- Community Forestry Plan update (2015-2019 plan): EC is responsible for NNL planting plan, Arbor Day planting and proclamation, at least two published articles, general public education, annual accomplishments report, training (Jim taking chain saw safety class, \$90, May 6 and trail maintenance workshop March 28 at Salt; Consulting Forester Ron

Farr to present in-house workshop for DPW to obtain the necessary 8 CEUs). We don't need CORE training at this point. Margaret has resolved questions about 2014 CEUs—all approved by NJDEP Community Forestry.

- NJ Tree Recovery Campaign 2015: James prepared an application (to distribute through Scouts); to pick up 200 seedlings April 17, one week before Arbor Day (Friday, April 24). Faxed application 3/13/15, before deadline; guaranteed to get the seedlings.

Musconetcong River: Michelle/Scott. Letters sent in December from MWA and MRMC objecting to NJDOT/Tilcon's work at the Route 206 bridge—status? National Park Service cannot comment.

Report from EC liaison to Open Space Committee: Michelle. Consideration of land swap with Wild West City.

Report from Dave Gary, Council liaison to EC: Status of better process with Sussex County Division of Health and with Planning Board applications. (Bulk standards at Cranberry Lake?)

Recycling signage: EC has permission from Township manager to seek better signs; Margaret contacted ReCommunity.

Adjourn.