

Environmental Commission
February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) 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 January 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes – a motion was made by James, seconded by Katie to approve the minutes.

Committee/Council Reports:

Recreation – the meeting was postponed until February 28th.

Open Space – a meeting was held on February 11th. EC was asked to resume holding trail clean-ups. At the next meeting Greener by Design will do a presentation and the public questionnaire will be released.

MRMC – Jim participated in this meeting.

- An invasive species working group is being created. The New Zealand mud snails invasive species are still being monitored and the resolution passed.
- A presentation was made on road salt usage as some towns are noticing salt is appearing in their drinking water. MRMC suggests training for road crews, encourage both crews and residents to use as little salt as possible and have crews keep equipment in good working order. MRMC may ask for Township input on what we do.
- The Northwest NJ River Conference has been scheduled for Saturday, March 30th and will be held at Centenary University. Information will be posted at Town Hall.
- Work is being done on the 2nd annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival plan., possibly being held in September.

Council – Harvey reported that they approved the forestry contract.

New Business:

- Municipal Recycling Coordinators Meeting Update
 - The annual tonnage reporting process has begun; letters were sent to businesses and vendors. Each year, a waste category to be focused on is identified. This year, the category is asphalt. There is a new requirement this year for the Municipal Recycling Coordinator to tour a recycling center. EC members expressed interest in attending the tour if possible.
 - Some waste haulers are incurring additional recycling costs and are trying to pass them along to their customers. The recycling industry is experiencing challenges as collected materials are

often contaminated (mostly due to glass being mixed into cardboard as well as single use plastic bags jamming recycling machines). Possible solutions are being investigated and include:

- Towns changing their residential recycling programs from single stream/co-mingled recycling to separating them by type
 - Cleaning the contaminated materials prior to it leaving the US in warehouses that may be built for this purpose
- Trails -
 - Clean-up Events – EC was requested to continue its trail clean-up events. Therefore, a resolution is required.
 - Resolution – The draft resolution was reviewed and members felt that forester participation on the trail clean-ups was necessary. The resolution will be modified and will be added to the EC March meeting agenda.
 - Community Well Testing – Lisa participated in training last year sponsored by Raritan Head Waters. She recently received an email and was reminded that they offer a community well water testing program. This was a topic of interest for EC last year. Residents would pick up a free kit, do the test and return it the following morning. It would be ideal to coordinate the distribution of the kits at an EC event, such as Arbor Day. EC discussed the idea of having residents bring the kit to the Town Hall for centralized drop-off. There is no requirement to track kits by resident. Katie may attend their meeting on March 5th and will research further. Members brainstormed potential ideas to advertise such events including signage, ads and email blasts.
 - Arbor Day Foundation Membership Dues – a request was received for \$15 dues for Arbor Day Foundation. Membership offers discounts on purchase of trees and includes a subscription to the bi-monthly Tree City USA bulletin. A motion was made by Eric, seconded by Katie to renew the \$15 dues.
 - ANJEC 2019 Grant – EC was asked to review the grant application to submit potential project ideas to Township management for review. Two topics were discussed: invasive species and educational stormwater management projects. EC proposes to do a project on invasive species, specifically the removal barberry which is encroaching on Township trails. EC recommends enlisting a professional speaker to do an educational presentation on invasive species within the Township. The forester had previously proposed a plan to remove barberry; EC members would like to follow up with Forester to review the plan, but believe he recommended his cutting back barberry bushes on Tamarack Park Trail. Volunteers (invite scouts?) would be needed to remove the cuttings and the forester would then possibly apply round-up to the roots. A few EC members will work together to draft a grant proposal which will be discussed at the March meeting. Members were reminded that the grant submission date is April 15th.

Ongoing Business:

- Vegetative Management Response Act / Proposed Bill – The next Senate voting was scheduled for February 21st. The bill is still in assembly as the state and assembly bills are not in sync. A motion was made by Katie, seconded by James to submit the suggestions proposed by the NJ Shade Tree Federation.

- 2019 Goals/Topics of Interest
 - Township Calendar – An initial brief discussion occurred with Township management but additional discussions are needed.
 - Lot Disturbance – EC would like to research ordinances from other towns within Highlands to determine impervious coverage / lot disturbance.
- Arbor Day Event – Tree seedlings will be distributed on 4/27 from 9am-1pm at CO Johnson Field.
- NJ Shade Tree Foundation Membership / Tree City USA Certification – Last month, EC tabled the decision to renew membership for NJ Shade Tree Foundation until research was completed to confirm if this was a requirement for Tree City USA Certification. NJ Shade Tree Membership is not a requirement but it is recommended for Tree City USA and other programs. The Township did not meet the Tree City USA requirements for 2018 and therefore will not apply. A motion was made by Eric, seconded by Lisa to renew membership for \$95 as this may help us with future grants and programs.

Planning Board Applications:

- REVISED APPLICATION / ON HOLD - Dave Hergert (Elite Automotive) – 254 Route 206
- Thomas Falleni – 145 Lake Drive (Block 250, Lot 129) – EC reviewed this application and had the following comments to submit:
 - As the property is lakefront, please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.
 - Please advise how you are treating the run-off for the proposed shed.
 - Please consider reducing the impervious surface (asphalt) from the front yard. A suggestion would be to consider a rain garden.
- Gerardo Pacillo and Mark McManus – 16 Rosemarie Lane (Block 360, Lot 11.01) - EC reviewed this application and had the following comments to submit:
 - As the property is lakefront, please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.
 - Please advise how you are treating the run-off from the existing structure.
 - EC agrees with the engineer’s review sections 2G; 3A, C, D and E
- Kevin and Karen Cotter – 5 Cliff Drive (Block 320, Lot 1) - EC reviewed this application and had the following comments to submit:
 - As the property is lakefront, please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.
 - EC noted it appears a math error in the Area Calculations provided by Majewski Architecture. On the second page under Area Calculation, the covered porch is included in the Building Coverage, Principal Proposed sq. ft. It is also included in the Lot Disturbance, Proposed section.
 - EC is concerned that the impervious surface area appears to increase dramatically. Please consider modifying the walkways and driveways so they are pervious surfaces (ex. use of paver blocks).
 - Please provide an existing site plan of the gravel surface areas.

- Please provide the plans for the gravel surface area located on the side of the property and which extends to the rock wall.

Training:

- ANJEC sponsored training “Making Sense of the Newest Stormwater Rules” – Katie and Helene participated in the Morris County Regional Roundtable and Networking Information Session which was held on Feb. 7th.
- Emerald Ash Borer Webinar was held on Feb. 27th – Katie and Helene attended as well as the DPW Superintendent, earning total of 3 CEU’s. Screenshots of the presentation are available for review.
- Secretary participated in NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program Annual Accomplishment Report Webinar, earning 1 CEU. Members were reminded that the Township needs to earn 8 CEU’s annually as a requirement for NJUCF certification and were encouraged to participate in training as appropriate.
- ANJEC sponsored training “2019 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions” was briefly discussed. There are three sessions offered in March. Helene and Harvey expressed interest in participating and Secretary will forward information.

Expenditures and Budget:

Temporary budget is \$700. Membership fee for \$350 for ANJEC was processed, leaving \$350 balance. The full budget is expected to be released in April.

Other:

- Municipal Building Subcommittee – the meeting was rescheduled to Feb. 26th. The presentation is available on the Township website and contains a few options being considered. The next meeting with the architects will be on March 14th.
- Community Action Group Meeting – the next meeting will be held on March 20th at 7pm at Town Hall
- Cory’s response to EC comments on the 2019 Tilcon Quarry Application was reviewed. He was in agreement with James’ comments.
- Letter of intent for proposed bridge replacement on North Shore Road was reviewed. EC had the following comments to be submitted to the DEP:
 - Will the drains conform to the new stormwater requirements?
 - Will there be a special drain to capture road contaminants?
 - Will there be curbing on the bridge to prevent run-off going to the water?
 - Is the run-off filtered before it enters the water?

The next meeting is March 28th and may include a presentation by Greener by Design.

Motion to adjourn made at 10:40pm by James, seconded by Eric.