

Environmental Commission
January 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Role Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm. Members present included Katie P., James Myers, Eric Duch, Dana Flynn, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Brigitte DuPont (Secretary).

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 – No members of the public were present.

Review of December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept the minutes was made by Dana Flynn, seconded by James and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports

- MRMC – Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival is scheduled for Friday February 25th and will be virtual. The film begins at 7 pm. Registration is requested, and link is on their website.
- Recreation – Meeting held on January 19th. Winter Walk postponed.
- Open Space – Meeting held on January 13th. Currently trying to implement plan and reviewing goals for 2022.
- Council – Statement requested to be added for record by Harvey Roseff - In light of the recent happenings regarding one of the other Byram Committees, as your liaison I'd like to express some thoughts:

a. Your role is to represent our community's views and needs with regards to environmental issues and policy. I think you have done a proper and good job doing so.

b. The EC is a volunteer organization, and it will cycle through full and short-staffed periods. This is a natural cycle caused by many factors, most beyond your control.

c. As part of its community role, the EC should and will advocate for the environment. This role may or may not cause friction and frustration within the EC as well with organizations that the EC engages with. This EC advocacy role, which may address environmental issues that are complex and important is proper and if frictions/frustrations occur they are healthy ones that influence policy and allow us to grow as a community. I particularly point to last year's effort in proposing an ordinance regarding lot coverage. Having made this proposal, your efforts highlight and influence policy and approvals whether legislation follows or does not.

d. My role here is as a liaison. It is to provide and receive guidance and facilitate communication. It is not to control.

- Route 206 Tunnel Project Update – Last fall DOT announced to repair tunnel in Andover Boro, repair projected to be around 2025 time period. Alternate routes and detours are

still being reviewed by DOT but projected to involve streets such as Tamarack Rd and Roseville Rd. Roughly 15K truck/vehicles travel on 206 daily and will provide updated status regarding various issues concerning detours into rural areas.

New Business

- New Member – Secretary Brigitte DuPont
- Recreation Liaison Position – On hold until next meeting
- Arbor Day – Confirmed with state nursery they are offering free seedlings again with pick-up date of April 22nd. Proposed to hold annual event on Saturday, April 23rd. Motion to accept date was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor. Motion to apply for seedlings was made by Lisa, seconded by James and all members were in favor. Motion to renew Arbor Day Foundation membership was made by Lisa, seconded by James and all members were in favor.
- TREX Plastics Challenge – Will be picking up plastic bags 2x per week
- New Bill Approved Supporting Jersey Native Plants – Promotes sale of native plants at garden centers and nurseries along with increasing consumer awareness. Will be discussed when EC holds events.

Old Business

- Deer Management – To be reviewed next meeting by Katie B.
- Tools Update – Trail tools received before end of year and paid out of Rec budget with a total of 19 items; all tools besides two saws are all in shed by Tamarack Park. Tools have been inventoried and have labels including being numbered with permanent marker. There will be a list and notebook for a sign in/sign out sheet when tools are used.
- Highlands Grant Lake Management – Plan was sent out end of November 2021 and will give understanding what plan will include. Zoom meeting scheduled for February 7th w/ council and Highlands to discuss doing the study which will look at certain lakes in Byram and will look at different categories of study including water quality/storm water management and will go into plan. It will then become a foundation to then go after other state monies to implement addition measures to improve the lakes. Scope of work will be developed and then to hire a firm to do work. EC likes opportunity to review scope of work and to review the plan prior to being finalized.
- 2022 Goals
 - Deer Management Plan
 - ANJEC Grant - Motion to renew ANJEC membership at \$375 was made by Lisa, seconded by James and all members were in favor.
 - Spotted Lanternfly
 - Sponsor Two Trail Clean-ups/Invasive Species
 - Arbor Day Event
 - Township Drainage Project Involvement
- Winter Salt Road Runoff Monitoring
- Third Grade Tree Seedling Program

Planning Board Applications

- Byram 206 Developers, LLC – Block 34, Lots 14 & 15 - Revised Wawa Application - SP9-2021-11.18.2021 Wawa – Members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Will the proposed changes impact the wetland transition area on the south side of the property? If so, have the applicable permits/waivers been applied for from NJDEP? Only a NJDEP FHA Individual permit was provided.
 - The EC recommends additional measures to decrease light pollution?
 - The EC appreciated the additional plantings and stormwater filtration measures that were added.
 - The EC recommends that Wawa designate additional parking spaces, other than the two complete ones with infrastructure in place, such that they are EV ready as the demand increases in the future.

Training – Eric participated in an American Trails Webinar “Successful Partnering for the Appalachian Trail”.

Membership – Eric Duch was appointed as member of EC and Katie P. and Dana were reappointed as MRMC representatives. Two open positions remain (full member and Alternate I)

Budget – Spent \$1775 in 2021 with \$765 encumbered. Temporary budget of \$700 for 2022

Other

Next Meeting to be held February 24, 2022 via Zoom

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:19pm by Lisa Shimamoto, seconded by Katie P. and all members were in favor.