

Environmental Commission
July 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Role Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Dana Flynn, Helene Jaros, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). In addition, Gerald Murphy (potential new member) was present.

Open Public Meeting Statement – Adequate notice of this meeting has been made with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

Review of June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes - A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Jim, seconded by Lisa.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – The next meeting will be held in Asbury on August 20th.
- Recreation – Phil Crosson has recently joined the Township. As part of his responsibility, he helps facilitate the events the Recreation Committee is planning. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held on August 18th.
- Open Space – The Public Member position has recently been vacated. The next meeting will be held on August 12th.
- Council – No report available.

New Business:

- Emerald Ash Borer Update – there was a recent article in NJ Herald about EAB and it stated that some areas of NJ are “introducing species of parasitic wasps that attack either the borer eggs or larvae”. Katie asked if this was being planned in Byram or Sussex County and if EC has an opinion on this topic. EC members expressed concern of the possibility of introducing a potentially invasive species and more research will be done to better understand this. Township Mgt. indicated that the Forester will be submitting his annual work plan in August. It is anticipated that white ash in Tamarack Park will be removed by a contractor in the Winter of 2020.
- Blaze Briar Ridge Trail South – Joe asked that EC schedule reblazing of Briar Ridge South Trail. After discussing the scope of work (reblaze existing blazes, not adding any new ones, etc.), EC selected Saturday, October 5th for this event. This will be done in conjunction with the Invasive Species Fall Project (see page 2).
- Community Wildlife Habitat – Katie found a link regarding National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Program and this was reviewed by members. This program requires communities to create a program that provides the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young. In addition, the program requires sustainable gardening practices such as using rain barrels, reducing water usage, removing invasive plants, using native plants and eliminating pesticides. Points, ranging from 5-10 per activity, are obtained based on

activities completed. Byram would be required to obtain 150 points to become certified. It was noted that Stillwater has registered for this program and is working towards certification.

The activities and associated point values were reviewed and it was determined that we are doing a number of them already, but the program still requires many more points to be obtained. Members would like to have more research done before making a decision to commit to this program.

- How long do we have to certify after we register?
- Would we need to recertify after a certain time period?
- It was noted that a “certain number of homes, schools and common areas must become habitats”. What is the number of homes, schools and common areas?

Old Business:

- Brookwood Park Trail Clean-Up – Thank you to EC members, family and friends who volunteered to do this trail clean-up. Members were pleased to learn that the NJDEP sent an email and indicated that “EC did a great job clearing up the trail”.
- Annual SW Letter – Township Management is reviewing this letter and it is expected to be mailed in August. The letter will include the Harmful Algae Bloom information proposed by EC.
- Community Forestry Management – The Forester will be participating in our August meeting. Members are reminded to review the current plan/goals. He will discuss the goals for the upcoming 5 year plan.
- Byram Fest – This Food Truck and Fireworks Event is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27th from 5-9pm at CO Johnson Park.
- Lot Disturbance/Coverage Research – As this month’s agenda was quite full; this topic will be added to the August agenda.
- Invasive Species Fall Project – As was reported last month, we were not awarded the grant to do this project. We proposed to have NJ Invasives Strike Force come in to do an educational presentation on invasive species (what they are, how to remove them, etc.) at Municipal Building, followed by a trail clean-up/barberry removal. This was targeted to occur in Sept./Oct. based on feedback obtained from the Township Forester on the best time to remove barberry. EC would still like to move forward with this project. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Jim to obtain a formal quote from NJ Invasives Strike Force to come to Municipal Building to do an education presentation on Saturday, October 5th. This motion also provided authorization to accept the quote with a not to exceed \$250. Secretary will discuss project with Township Management.
- Soil Movement Ordinance – The Township’s draft ordinance was reviewed and EC supports the ordinance with one comment pertaining to page 4 paragraph I – is a Soil Movement Form required for any amount of dirt or a specific amount only? Is there a minimum amount for which you would need to fill out a form?

Planning Board Applications:

- Elmiry – 11 Laurel Cove Road – Block 185, Lot 17 – EC reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - 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 run-off.
- Purcell – 54 Lackawanna Dr – Block 365, Lot 13.01 – EC reviewed this application and had the following comment:
 - It appears there is an existing dirt driveway, but on the plan it appears to be a gravel driveway. Is it dirt or gravel?
- Nasi – 158 Glenside Trail – Block 304, Lot 2227 – EC reviewed this application and had the following comment:
 - Please consider adding low maintenance landscaping that encourages retention and the planting of native vegetation that minimizes the use of lawns, fertilizers and pesticides. This will provide some buffer between the shed and the road.
- Rooney/Table – 10 Ka Ton Nah Trail – Block 144/130.01 – EC reviewed this application and had the following comment:
 - Is it your intention to maintain landscaping on the side of the fence facing the street? If so, please consider adding low maintenance landscaping that encourages retention and the planting of native vegetation that minimizes the use of lawns, fertilizers and pesticides.

Membership:

EC welcomed its new Alternate member, Dana Flynn!

Training:

- August 14th NJUCF Webinar (1-2:15pm) entitled “Quantifying Rainfall Interception in the Urban Canopy”. If members participate, they were reminded to secure the certificate of participation so we can get NJUCF CEU credits.
- Jim reported that he attended a webinar sponsored by MWA “Wild and Scenic Rivers”.

Expenditures and Budget:

Balance of \$2,100 remains

Other:

- ANJEC Letter re-plastic bag ban support –EC does not want to recommend an ordinance at this point. They will continue to monitor the progress of the bill.
- Mayor’s Hike - Saturday, August 3rd, 2019, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Mayor Alex Rubenstein will be hosting a “Mayor’s Hike.” The group will be departing from the Tamarack Park Parking lot at 9:15 am and will walk the Tamarack Park Trail to C. O. Johnson Park and then return on the same

trail. Participants will attempt to find several geocaches and explore the spur trail that leads to Johnson Lake.

- NJ Forest Action Plan – Joe requested members to review and respond to survey request. Members provided feedback and Donna will forward to Joe.
- Water Ways Traveling Exhibit at Lake Hopatcong – The exhibit ends on August 10th. After review it appears this might be geared towards children.
- DPW has not noticed any unusual amounts of trash on Township roads; typically this is found on Amity and Roseville Roads.
- Community Action Group (CAG) Update was provided by Lisa. At a recent meeting, there was a presentation of Second Phase work (continued clean-up). The Phase 1 work (water line) has been completed. They are still gathering community feedback and expect it to take up to two years to get approval and funding for Phase 2 work.

Next Meeting: will be held on August 22nd

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made at 9pm by Jim, seconded by Lisa.