

Environmental Commission
June 24, 2021 - Minutes

Call to Order/Role Call – the Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. The following members were present: James Myers, Katie Parrish, Eric Duch, Dana Flynn, Katie Baron, Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison) joined at 8:15pm.

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this 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 – Jack and Jeanne Moran participated.

New Business:

- MWA/MRMC – A Great Waters of New Jersey Initiative presentation was made by Alan Hunt (Musconetcong Watershed Association), Alex Ambrose (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, better known as ANJEC) and Keith Fritsche (Trout Unlimited). The Great Waters Project has five goals: (1) raise awareness of Northwest NJ's valuable water-based recreational resources, (2) protect surface water quality for recreational use, (3) recognition for drinking water supplies in Northwest NJ, (4) ensure headwaters are better identified and protected, and (5) protect NJ's Wild & Scenic Rivers and National Water Trail. The group is presenting at various local municipalities and requesting they consider adopting a resolution to help support the project.
- [Annual Stormwater Letter](#) – Township management confirmed with Township engineers; the same letter can be used. Motion to issue the letter was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor
- [Plastic Free Challenge in July](#) – Several members are interested in pledging to reduce their use of plastics for July and will take the pledge. Secretary was asked to post this on our website

Review of May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie P. reported that the Great Waters of New Jersey presentation was discussed at the last meeting, along with annual elections
- Recreation – meeting was held on June 21st; no available update
- Open Space – meeting was held on June 14th. Eric advised that they are continuing to work on the trails (CO Johnson and Cranberry Overlook), proposed dog park at CO Johnson and kayak launch at Riverside Park

- Council – Harvey reported that Council is moving forward with the dog park project. A presentation on the municipal building project was made and continues to be discussed

Old Business:

- Girl Scout Silver Award Project – the scouts are working on a presentation and may possibly ask to present at the July meeting. It is not likely they will be ready in July, however so this may be postponed till the August meeting
- Impervious Coverage Project – the Planning Board presentation was postponed to a later date so members could revise the presentation materials. The Planning Board Secretary will reschedule the presentation for when the Township Engineer and Planner are participating in a meeting. Harvey was thanked for his support at the recent Council meeting
A brief discussion occurred about the possibility of including some mitigation measures to achieve a “trade-off” to reduce the % size of impervious coverage. An example of this could be adding a rain garden
- Plastic Bag Collection Project – Dana dropped off almost 40 lbs. of plastics (thank you)! Jim Reinhold (prior EC member) also dropped off a bagful. The Byram Township Senior Citizen Club is supporting the project as well. The collection box to be placed outside Municipal Building was received but not yet put up

Planning Board Applications:

- Alissa Macmillan, 6 Fox Trail, Block 116, Lot 19 – EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - The property is in a riparian buffer zone. Please be mindful of this special designation should there be any future construction projects
 - Please provide details how stormwater will be managed on the property. There are a large number of existing impervious surfaces on the property. It appears stormwater will run off into the street and neighbor’s yards. Please advise what steps will be taken to control this (example establish a rain garden, create a drywell, install gutters, etc.)
 - It was noted that there does not appear to be landscaped areas on the property. Please consider establishing a grassy area or landscaping to mitigate the impact of stormwater run-off. When using plants or trees, please use non-invasive, native plants
- Todd and Tracee Stefanelli, 78 Glenside Trail, Block 311, Lot 2011 – EC members reviewed the above application and had the following comments:
 - Please describe where the rainwater from the addition’s downspots will be directed (stormwater management)
 - Please consider establishing a raingarden to help mitigate water run-off
 - Members were very pleased to see the existing landscaping on the property

Training – the Township has submitted the required 8 CEU’s to fulfill the NJUCF grant requirements. Members who participated in the training webinars were thanked.

Membership

- A letter was sent to Helene Jaros to ascertain her intent to remain as a member. If no response is received by our July meeting, her position will become vacant
- Katrina Drace (Miss Byram 2021) was provided with information on joining EC. She is interested in joining but will be going away to college in the Fall, so probably will not join as an official member but will try to help when available

Budget - \$2,210 balance remaining

Other

- Members were asked if another invasive species event should be scheduled. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting
- Jack Moran advised that he and Jeanne listened to our meeting and asked for clarification on the impervious coverage project. He suggested contacting the Highlands Council and Lisa will follow-up

Next Meeting to be held July 22, 2021. Secretary is not available and this may need to be rescheduled or cancelled. Secretary will confer with Planning Board Secretary; if there are no Planning Board applications that need to be reviewed, this meeting may be cancelled. A decision will be made on or about July 12th. The Township is planning to hold in-person meetings beginning July

Motion to Adjourn was made at 10:05pm by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.