

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chair John Boyer, Vice Chair Michelle Rehse, Lisa Shimamoto, Jim Reinhold, James Myers, Council Liaison Dave Gray, and Donna Koenig.

Minutes:

- The August minutes were approved: motion by Jim; second by James; unanimous.

Updates and correspondence:

Steep slope ordinance: EC memo to Zoning Officer recommending that prohibitions on disturbing sensitive features be extended to all circumstances, not only when permits or approvals are sought from the Township. No response; EC decided to wait until Zoning Officer has time to consider. (Did not address this in Sept., keep on Agenda for future.)

Sustainable Jersey (anti-idling program): More than 200 NJ communities have some program about this, which can be used toward Sustainable Jersey certification. Margaret emailed Michelle the flyer who will check on Byram's status with Sustainable Jersey; there is still a small grants program (which funded the recent conservation easement project). EC to discuss whether to continue with Sustainable Jersey.

Updating Sussex County's Open Space and Recreation Plan Meeting: Scheduled Oct. 22, 2015 11:30 am. Purpose: To update the County's 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Spoke to Joe about attending as an EC representative – to be determined.

Business:

Membership: Open seats posted on Byram Township website. Flyers announcing “volunteers needed” will be available at our booth on Byram Day. Donna to inquire about publicizing open seats in the Township Journal.

Town Committee Collaboration Meeting: Committee Chairs Meeting, September 29th. John to attend.

Conservation Easement grant: Donna to talk with Scott regarding our involvement going forward.

Soil ordinance: Dave will work with John Boyer and then for EC review.

Planning Board: Reviewed Oscovitch application and submitted the following comments to Cheryl, Sept. 29, 2015 (Jim motioned to accept comments, John 2nd). Emailed 9/25 for comments.

- Lake buffer recommended: 10' wide vegetative buffer along at least 80% of water's edge
- No well on property, is the public water (seasonal) adequate for year round use

Trails/parks:

- EC workday: Brookwood Park, October 17th (time to be announced). Trail maintenance and area clearing for a picnic bench. Jim informed us of the probable difficulty in getting logs and brush out. I'll ask DPW about hauling out tree sections. For future trail maintenance that requires a chain saw, EC needs formal permission from the Township Manager. Dave is creating a form letter that the EC will fill out and submit each time a chain saw will be used.
- A November work day to be determined for Johnson Lake.
- 20 trailhead signs: DPW will install 2 more trailhead signs; Glenside Woods, off of Ranger Trail and behind Salt. QR code blazes need to be added to each trail post. EC may do if DPW can't get to it.
- Cutoff trail: Need to start over as communications have timed out and EC members have changed. Determined there is a need to get together with other municipalities to re-visit goals and what the EC's want to accomplish. Will address in November.
- Sussex Branch Trail: the EC was instrumental in getting the section above Cranberry Lake repaired; Donna will contact Northern Regional Parks Office at Kittatinny about repairing the washout on the Byram-Andover border, so that this regional trail is complete to Newton.

Forestry:

- No Net Loss tree-planting grant: \$317,554 for 1,058 trees. Township Manager and various town representatives will determine where trees can be planted for function and aesthetics and direct the Township Engineer to prepare the detailed planting plan- spring 2016. A private contractor will then be chosen to purchase, plant, and maintain the trees.

Byram Day:

- Lindsay McNamara, Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, to host a salamander presentation.
- Greg Becker, White Water Flies Host, to host a fly-fishing demonstration:
- Hold a *Identify the Photo?* Contest. Prize- two tickets for Harvest Moon Festival at Waterloo (Council approved this expenditure). Donna to take pictures and create sign.

- Hang recycling signs about what NOT to recycle. Follow this with a photo and article in local newspaper and also mention the Community Forestry Management Plan, so that this article serves as one of the two that the EC is required to publish each year under the CFMP. These recycling signs can later be used at the municipal complex to educate residents.
- Hand out postcards about proposed changes to the Township's recycling program.
- Hand out Byram Townships Trail Guide
- Display sign-up sheets to receive EC mailings—provide email addresses.
- Display flyer about mini-contamination at homes, streets, storm-drains in Byram: over-use of pesticides, litter and waste in storm drains, and other ways residents harm the environment. These small events all add up and are a threat to groundwater.

Musconetcong River: Nothing to report in September.

Open Space Committee: Nothing to report in September.

Adjourn: 9:30 p.m.