

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 23, 2016 Minutes

In attendance: James Myers, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Catherine Varian, Lisa Shimamoto, Katie Parish, and guest Terry Vervack

May 2016 minutes approved: Michelle, seconded James

Correspondence and updates:

- Visitor Terry Vervack from Netcong Recreation Committee came to discuss and get feedback on creating a walking path around Lake Musconetcong. She is hoping to get a group of citizens from Byram, Netcong, and Stanhope to work together on this. She will keep us posted.
- Donna to call Katie Baron and invite her to our next meeting regarding her butterfly garden projects and the *Mayor's Monarch Pledge* signed by Jim Oscovitch.
- Applied to be a Tree City USA: Application submitted to NJ Community Forestry in June. No response yet.
- Green Infrastructure: Byram Township has signed a contract with New Jersey Future establishing Byram as a Pilot Town for the Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure program – with the purpose of integrating stormwater management practices and advancing the use of green infrastructure in public and private projects. Will contact NJ Future to get educational material to hand out at Byram Day. NJ Future will also be displaying at Byram Day.
- Ongoing: Conserve Wildlife – Stephanie D'Alessio, Director of Education at Conserve Wildlife, offered to put together any kind of Environmental Program we would like - for any age or group.

Business:

- TILCON Quarry inspection next Tuesday , 6/28/16, at 2 pm. Jim might be available.
- Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! Postcard – Katie to add to Cathy's redesign – which will be used for stormwater mailings and Byram Day
- Recycling post cards – Need to be updated with 2017 dates, also need to revise recycling info, Donna to find out about postcard funding and which plastic #s are recyclable.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant – Donna to find out how to incorporate John Byrne's program with how Navitend will set up our webpage.
- Share the Woods signs – Donna to contact ANJEC to see how they handle hiking/hunting trails. Hunting is not allowed on Byram's designated trails, however, a resolution is being written to only allow hunting on 5 designated open space areas.
- August EC meeting - Sussex County Day – 9/18/16 – volunteers for Byram booth
- Amphibian Crossing Project – Donna called Kelly Triece and offered EC support

- Vernal Pool (maintenance) and Butterfly Garden creation – Patti Poff is waiting to hear if she received grant money for creating the garden. If awarded, she'll be in touch with EC for assistance
- Byram Day – Received Vender Application to be returned by August. Will finalize plans at the August meeting.
 - *Donna to contact ANJEC to borrow the Habitat Protection Game.
 - *Decided on a Trail/Park photo identification quiz (we need trail pics!) to which participants will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 gift cert to Sunnyside Nursery.
 - *Do we want to order trees from the Arbor Day Foundation? 50 trees/ \$39 –which we can have kids plant in small containers at our booth to take home? The Arbor Day foundation has an assortment of different tree seedlings - discuss in July.
 - *Other suggestions for our booth: offer some kind of “treat” when visiting our booth, rain /butterfly garden flyers, stormwater flyers, recycling flyers (better description of plastics allowed), well testing?, septic mngt?, Ban the Micro-bead hands-on display.
- Septic Management Program – Discuss program and fee
- Retention Basins – Donna to get price quotes for “No Dumping” signs to be placed at storm drains and retention basins

Planning Board Applications:

4 Cabin Springs Trail Comment:

- Restore pervious coverage to the proposed 6’ right side of house/addition. It is currently a paved parking area (>13’).

Trails:

- Created an excel spread sheet to keep track of what trails were maintained, when, and volunteers involved as well as a volunteer email list. Added John Boyer to list
- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts – James added code plaques to Glenside Woods trail, both posts, and to the Briar Ridge Trail, both posts
- White diamond blazes – Township has 100 in inventory. Jim offered to add blazes to the alternate entrance of the Glenside Woods trail.

Forestry:

- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan distributed to keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram’s status with the DEP’s NJ State Forestry Services. The Tree City USA (part of the 5 yr plan) application was sent in on June 20th
- Ongoing: NNL Phase I and II – Donna to find out status of planting plans

Expenditures and budget:

- \$565 - Membership dues (ANJEC, MWA, NYNJ Trail Conference, Arbor Day, & Shade Tree)
- \$200 – to Conserve Wildlife for Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle relayed information regarding:
 - * The opening/closing of the dam in Lake Hopatcong – DEP won't allow the dam to be closed this summer – water should be open and moving.
 - * There was a water quality report done in 6 sections along the river, Michelle to send.
 - * MWA looking for high res.(600 dpi) photos of the river for their trail brochure.
 - * Winter Road Mix – Donna to find out what is in Byram's mix
- Open Space: Michelle – Summarized Open Space's future plans – Will eventually focus more on maintaining land acquired, and less on acquiring land. Also summarized the William Penn Grant for Green Infrastructure - to accelerate watershed protection and restoration and to develop plans for implementing and measuring local (which Byram falls into) conservation strategies
- Board of Health: Dave – n/a

Adjourn – 9:45