

Environmental Commission
March 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). Also present was Ben Spinelli from Greener by Design.

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

Review of February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes – a motion was made by Jim, seconded by Lisa to approve the minutes.

Committee/Council Reports:

- MRMC – There was no meeting held since our last meeting.
- Recreation – Their meetings are being changed to the third Monday of each month (from Wednesdays). A Byram Day Subcommittee has been formed and they expect to determine the event date by the next meeting. The location is to be determined.
- Open Space – The next meeting will be held on April 8th.
- Council – Harvey reported that there was nothing pertaining to EC from the last Council meetings.

New Business:

- Open Space Grant – Ben Spinelli discussed the grant. Currently they are in the Public Outreach portion of the project. They are reviewing existing open spaces and assessing needs through public surveys and meetings. They have received a good response on the survey and are getting good feedback. Ben indicated that trails could be a big visitor draw for the community, with the potential to use the trails as a way to connect through the entire township. Members shared their feedback and comments with him including the need for more parking at trailheads, better signage and navigation to trails, ability to have trails designated for multi-use, promote its use through social media, ability for visitors to camp or stay at B&B's, add indoor recreational facilities and adult recreational options, etc. Ben indicated that Open Space and Hiking Maps will be redone as part of this project. EC members may be invited to help Ben to walk the trails to take GPS readings which will then be used to update the map with parcel ownerships. The updated map will be used to determine potential connectivity opportunities.
- NJDEP Proposal to Increase C-1 Waterway Designation – The entire length of Lubbers Run, including Lake Lackwanna, has been nominated for C-1 designation. This would potentially impose stronger restrictions on future development for residents in that area (ex. increased buffers). A public hearing will be held on April 8th in Hamilton. Comments must be submitted by May 3rd. Lisa will bring this to the attention of the Planning Board and Harvey will do the same at the next Council meeting. This topic will be on next month's EC agenda.

Ongoing Business:

- Resolution for 2019 Trail Clean-Ups – The draft resolution was approved. Township Manager advised that if EC wants the Forester to participate in the trail clean-up events, EC budget would be used for this cost. Harvey indicated that there are Open Space funds which can be used for this and a motion was made by Lisa, seconded by James to request the use of these funds for this purpose.
- ANJEC 2019 Grant – Members reviewed the draft grant application. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Jim to submit the application along with resolution to Council for approval.
- Vegetative Management Response Act / Proposed Bill – Harvey will present EC’s proposed comments to Council.
- Lot Disturbance/Coverage Research – Last month, EC briefly discussed the possibility of doing research of what other towns’ ordinances have in place for lot disturbance/coverage. Lisa will take the lead on this as members felt it would be beneficial to gather this information as it could impact planning board application reviews.
- Arbor Day Event – Tree seedlings will be distributed on 4/27 from 9am-1pm at CO Johnson Field. The Township has scheduled baseball/softball opening day for the same day.
 - We will setup by the covered pavilion/bench area by the playground.
 - Schedule –
 - Helene will be there from 9-11 (or if someone else can come before 11 to relieve her)
 - Lisa will be there from 11-1
 - Go Green Club members may participate (TBD)
 - Secretary will create an ad for Township Journal to include two open membership positions
 - Flyer to “join EC” will be available at event
 - Members were reminded that we must have residents use sign-in sheet and this must be faxed to the state. Members suggested adding a column/check-box for residents to indicate their interest to join EC.
 - Motion was made by Eric, seconded by Jim to purchase paper towels and paper lunch bags to hold the tree seedlings, not to exceed \$20.
- EC’s Comments to Letter of Intent for Bridge Repair on North Shore Road – EC questions were addressed by Cory’s email dated March 5, 2019.

Planning Board Applications:

Exxon – 1 Route 206 - Block 18.02, Lot 33 – Applicant proposed new LED price signage and new branding features at the two pumping stations. Members reviewed the application and had the following comment to submit:

EC supports Cory’s comments regarding landscaping. “Please review the landscaping of the property and bring the landscaping back to the past approvals that were granted for this gateway property in Byram Township”.

Training:

- NJUCF Webinar, April 10, 2019 “Green Readiness, Response and Recovery : Stewardship of Natural Resources in the Context of Disturbance from 1-2:15pm, 1 CEU – Helene will participate
- NJUCF Webinar, May 8, 2019 – “More Than Good Looks : How Trees Influence Urban Stormwater Management in Green Infrastructure Practices” from 1-2:15pm, 1 CEU – Helene will participate

Expenditures and Budget:

\$95 was spent for dues to NJ Shade Tree Foundation

\$15 was spent for dues for Arbor Day Foundation

Balance of \$240 remains, with the full budget expected to be released in April.

Other:

- Municipal Building Subcommittee – The subcommittee plans to present a concept to Council on April 16th.
- Community Action Group Meeting – The EPA is still gathering information to determine which water company will be used. Clean-up and monitoring efforts continue. CAG may meet again in April.
- Upcoming Events:
 - 3/30 (Sat.) – Township Rabies Clinic from 9am-12pm & SCMUA E-Waste Day from 7am-2pm
 - 4/7 (Sun.) – West Brookwood Clean-Up from 10am-noon
 - 4/12 (Fri.) – NJ Land Conservation Rally from 8am-5pm
 - 4/13 (Sat.) - MWA River Clean-Up from 9am-12pm & SALT Clean Communities Clean-Up
 - 4/27 (Sat.) – EC’s Arbor Day Event @ COJ from 9am-1pm
 - 5/4 (Sat.) – Forest Lakes Annual Beach Clean-up

The next meeting is April 25th.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:15pm by Jim, seconded by James.