

Environmental Commission  
May 27, 2021 Minutes

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

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 – Annaliese Demagistris, 69 North Shore Road, reported that a number of trees were dying. She described the damage and Dana suggested it might be due to emerald ash borer. Anneliese wasn't sure if the trees were on her property or her neighbor's and was advised to contact Donna to determine.

Review of April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Lisa, seconded by Eric and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMCA – Katie P. reported that the Musconetcong Water Authority representatives requested to participate in a future meeting to do a Great Waters of New Jersey presentation. The purpose of this is to deepen the understanding of recreational waters. Members agreed that this should be added to the June meeting agenda
- Recreation – the new Recreation Leader (Catherine Biancone) has been hired
- Open Space – the next meeting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. The focus is on the CO Johnson Park initiative. Eric advised that they did a hike and put up trail markers around Cranberry Overlook Trail
- Council – Council Liaison was not present and did not provide his update

New Business:

- Girl Scout Silver Award Project – Katie P. was contacted about a potential scout project to create a You Tube channel on fun trail hikes within the Township. The scouts would use plant identification apps to point out plant species including invasives, pick up litter along the way, etc. The scouts will prepare a presentation with more detailed information and a presentation will be coordinated with Township management. Members would like to invite the scouts to a future EC meeting when appropriate

### Old Business:

- ANJEC 2020 Grant Update – the Forester’s final invoice (for \$500) was received and processed. The grant closure paperwork was submitted. There was a balance of \$132 on the grant which was unused
- Arbor Day Seedling Distribution Update – was a great success! The 500 seedlings were distributed by 11:15 (over an hour earlier than anticipated). EC members who volunteered were thanked: James, Katie P. Lisa, Kymberli, Eric, Dana, Donna and Harvey along with community members from Go Green Club, Ralph Fett, Holly Odgers and Bill Woolley. Members would like to do this again next year as it was very well received by the residents
- Impervious Coverage Project – There was an article in the Township Journal about the recent Council meeting presentation made by Katie B. Council members were not in favor of this project and requested some additional information. Katie P. was requested to make a similar presentation to the Planning Board on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Township Engineer and Planner will be at this meeting
- Plastic Bag Collection Project – Township management has approved EC request to place a collection box outside the Municipal Building. Secretary will monitor the box and contact EC members who will be responsible to pick up the bag when full. Members would weigh the bags, bring them to Stop & Shop and send the weight to Secretary. Members support the project and a motion to purchase plastic bags to line the collection box (if needed) not to exceed \$30 was made by Eric, seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor
- Plastic Bag Ban – received a request to develop a resolution to support the plastic bag ban and this will discussed in the future

### Planning Board Applications:

- Lovenberg, Robert Jr. – 285 Lackawanna Drive – Block 344, Lot 33.05. EC reviewed the revised materials and comments previously submitted and had the following additional comments:
  - It was noted that there is a wooden fuel shed (page 18 of the EIS document). Please advise what is being stored there and its purpose. It appears there is a diesel fuel tank. How many gallons are being stored?
  - Please confirm that MSDS’s are obtained for all hazardous materials stored on site (ex. the fuel stored in the wooded fuel shed)
  - Please describe spill clean-up procedure plan for hazardous material stored on site (ex. fuel). Is there a secondary containment in the storage area and/or in the fuel refilling process?
  - Please advise where the material collected from the porta potties is disposed. If the materials are disposed on-site, please describe how and where this occurs
  - Please share your Stormwater Management Plans. Page 10 of the EIS document describes sheet flow from the site to a protected wetlands area. Please consider developing and implementing a stormwater management plan if you do not have one already, which could include a raingarden, retention basin or other treatment process
  - We are concerned about future runoff issues or impacts that have gone unseen (such as chemical or temperature changes in the nearby stream and wetlands). Continued sheet flow runoff without mitigation may impact the aquifers which supply water to local residents and local streams. It may also impact protected species in the wetlands, such as the wood turtle

- We concur with Cory's environmental report
- Most of property is deemed a critical wildlife habitat with special status of the following species: Barred Owl, Hooded Warbler, Veery, Worm-eating Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Wood Turtle. Please be cognizant of your impact to these special status species
- Anty Trucking – 9 Lackawanna Drive – Block 226, Lot 16 – Lisa was recused from this application. EC members the revised plans and had the following comments:
  - Please share how potential spillage/leakage from trucks will be handled
  - Where does truck maintenance occur (inside the building or outdoors)
  - Please use native, non-invasive plant species
  - We were pleased to see construction was moved out of the riparian zone

Annaliese reported that she was very pleased with having Anty Trucking as her neighbor.

Training – received 7 certificates for NJUCF credit; expect 3 more from previously attended webinars. Katie B. and Dana participated in EAB webinar, Katie B. participated in Growing & Using Medicinal Herbs webinar. Katie B. is scheduled for “Landscaping With Fruit Trees” webinar. Provided we obtain these certificates, we will have met our annual training requirements. Members who participated in training were thanked.

Membership – Secretary left a message for Helene to determine if she is interested in continuing her position; no response was received. A motion was made to send a certified letter, indicating if no response is received by the July meeting, her position will become vacant. Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Katie P. and all members were in favor. A resident expressed interest in joining EC but is unable to commit at this time. However, she is a graphic artist and volunteered to help should we have any flyers or brochures to be printed

Budget - \$2210 balance remaining

Other

June 5<sup>th</sup> - SCMUA Hazardous Waste Day & National Trails Day

Next Meeting to be held June 24, 2021

Motion to Adjourn – at 9:30 was made by James, seconded by Eric and all members were in favor