

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2020

Role Call / Call to Order – The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Members present were Gerry Murphy, James Myers, Katie Parrish, Dana Flynn, Kymberli Morris, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council 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 – there were no members of the public participating.

Review of November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes - – a motion was made to accept the November minutes by Kymberli, seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie P. reported that there is a meeting Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Gerry to spend \$100 to sponsor the to sponsor the annual Film Festival.
- Recreation – Donna advised that Recreation was currently meeting
- Open Space - Donna advised that Open Space was currently meeting. Eric was attending that meeting but texted that the ash trees at CO Johnson Park were planned on being removed in January
- Council – Harvey advised that there is a special municipal building subcommittee meeting scheduled for Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> and they plan on reviewing architectural plans. He also advised that Council rescinded the proposed chicken ordinance.

New Business:

- Invasive Species Grant Review of Collected Data/Recommendations – this was briefly reviewed and members asked for more time to do an in-depth review. This will be added to the January agenda.
- Summary of Invasives Found – This will be added to the January agenda.
- Review of Draft Township Annual Report – Members reviewed the draft document and had the following additions/changes:
  - Add comment about Byram Day cancellation
  - Add comment that EC distributed re-useable bags and native seed packets
  - Update planning board applications with December’s applications
  - Change meeting days from third to fourth Thursdays

- Spotted Lanternfly Strategy - [https://byrampdtwp-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/dfett\\_byramtwp\\_org/EdLErYWgw6RMgynMUxhgB2sBLBOVD/CzMHugxZuqs-qWGFw?e=f3ewOh](https://byrampdtwp-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/dfett_byramtwp_org/EdLErYWgw6RMgynMUxhgB2sBLBOVD/CzMHugxZuqs-qWGFw?e=f3ewOh) – this invasive pest has been reported in our area. NJ Dept of Agriculture advised that residents no longer need to report sightings, but they should be encouraged to destroy the egg masses that are seen during this time period. Members felt this should be brought up to Council and residents advised.
- PSEG Application for Extension of a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit - Members reviewed the letter requesting an extension for the maintenance of existing PSEG electric overhead and underground transmission systems rights of way and had no comments to request.

#### Old Business:

- Lot Disturbance/Impervious Coverage Ordinance – Motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Katie P. to forward the proposed ordinance.
- Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Members briefly reviewed draft outline proposed by Gerry and this will be added to the January agenda.

#### Planning Board Applications:

- 263 Route 206 Real Estate – Block 215, Lot 1 – Members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
  - EC cannot make detailed recommendations at this time and will reserve comments until such time when the applicant provides more details. Initial areas of concern include wetlands, buffers, protection from street run-off and septic.
  - EC was happy to note the addition of “landscaped islands” in the impervious sections of the site (parking lot), but would need more detail on exactly what would be added in order to provide comments.
- Raimo – Members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
  - Adding a landscaped buffer area towards Mill Stream Lane side of property to protect Lubber’s Run
  - Adding more landscaping in areas not used for outdoor storage, and circulation of parking
  - Eliminating some impervious covered areas if possible
  - Repairing or maintaining existing impervious surfaces

Please provide additional information:

- How will car fluids from Principal Building #3 be stored, shipped, etc.?
- If materials will be stored outdoors, where will they be stored? How will materials be handled/disposed of?
- Regarding the detention system – What is the cleaning schedule? Are there oil separating capabilities?
- What are the intended hours of operation?

- What are the plans for Noise Pollution control, especially regarding the car crushing operation. What is the decibel level expected? Are any types of sound barriers being planned in the buildings? NOTE – expected video to be shown at Planning Board meeting
- Please confirm that the necessary NJ DEP permits (ex. safe waste disposal for fluids, car crushing permits, health and safety) have been applied for or have already been obtained.
- What happens to the cars after they are crushed?
- Are additional chemicals or hazardous materials being brought on site as part of the new operations?
- On the landscape plan, there are trailers between Buildings 3 and 5 and next to Building 1. What is the purpose of these trailers? If materials are being stored there, please describe their purpose.

**Comments on EIS:**

- The EIS states that the nearest surface waterbody (Lubbers Run) is 750 feet to the south. This distance measures the proximity of the site to the stream from the farthest possible location on the property. Revise to reflect the closest distance (just over 300 feet).
- Lubbers Run is a Category One waterway and should be stated as such in the EIS. C1 water receive a 300-foot riparian buffer, which is regulated by the NJDEP. Revise EIS to state that no work will be occurring within the riparian zone of Lubbers Run.
- The EIS states that there are no indications of Threatened and/or Endangered Species on or proximal to the site, and that there are no impacts anticipated. According to NJ Landscape Project mapping, the site is adjacent to potential habitat for two State-endangered wildlife species and one State-threatened species. Three (3) Federally-listed species (1 Endangered and 2 Threatened) also have the potential to occur near the site, according to the USFWS. The EIS should be revised to reflect this data. While habitat for these species has the potential to occur adjacent to the site, the limit of work is proposed to occur in areas that are already disturbed and should not adversely affect these species. The EC agrees with the conclusion that no adverse impacts to listed species are anticipated from the proposed work.
- Toedter, Uwe – 135 Lackawanna Drive – Block 271, Lot 788 – EC members reviewed the application and had the following comment:
  - EC cannot make a recommendation as the location of the outdoor kitchen is not depicted on any drawing. Please submit a revised drawing that shows its location.
- Hassenfeld, James – 92 Birch Parkway – Block 308, Lot 1847 – EC members reviewed the application and had no comments

Training – Katie P. participated in EAB University webinar “IPM for Scale Insect Pests of Trees”. Members who participated in NJUCF training this year were thanked.

Budget - \$2,142 remains.

Next Meeting - will be held on Thursday, January 22

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:20pm by James, seconded by Lisa and all were in favor.