

Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2019

Call to Order/Role Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and the following members were present: Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). In addition, Dana Flynn (potential new EC member) was present.

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

Review of May 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Katie, seconded by Jim.

Committee Reports:

- MPMC – A meeting was held on June 18th but EC members were not able to participate. The next meeting will be held on August 20th in Asbury.
- Recreation – No update available
- Open Space – A meeting was held on June 10th. Eric reported that there is discussion on Rec and EC partnering to “adopt-a-trail” with the goal of frequently walking the trails and advising if trail maintenance is needed. If there are any larger trees down, they would report it Donna for DPW removal. Ron has removed invasive barberry on Briar Ridge North and noted presence of garlic mustard. Ash tree removal is on his to do list at Tamarack.
- Council – Harvey reported that Council has created a “dirty dirt” ordinance and EC will be permitted to add any comments. He also reported that JCP&L is doing tree cutbacks.

New Business:

- Brookwood Park Trail – Joe advised that this trail needs attention. He would like EC to schedule a trail clean-up ASAP to remove trail overgrowth and replace blazes were needed. This trail is a .3 mile loop trail and is located off Brookwood Road.
- Trail Blaze Maintenance – EC will now have responsibility to maintain existing trail blazes. A request was made to reblaze Briar Trail South; EC should refresh the plastic markers when time permits.
- Annual SW Letter – EC reviewed last year’s letter and would like to add information on Harmful Algae Bloom. Donna confirmed that the content of letter meets the Township’s Stormwater Management Plan requirements.
- Community Forestry Management Plan – Ron Farr is working on the new five year plan. He plans to attend our August meeting to provide details. In the interim, he asked for members to review the existing goals to refamiliarize themselves with the plan.
- Byram Day – No update available.

Ongoing Business:

- Spring Trail Clean Up/Hike Update – EC scheduled Brookwood Park Trail clean-up for 9am on July 13th with rain date of July 14th. A scope of work will be submitted to Township Manager.

- Soil Importation Ordinance Research – NJDEP won lawsuit against Vernon.
 - Invasive Species Removal Fall Project – We were not awarded the grant for this project. EC will discuss the feasibility of doing this on their own. It was previously suggested that we invite the NJ Invasive Species Strike Team come to do an education presentation on invasives and do a trail clean-up. Target date for this would be September. Katie and Helene reported that the Invasive Species Strike Force workshop they attended was fantastic. It was suggested that we consider creating a Byram Township Strike Force. There is an app that we could make available to residents who could report invasives through the app. The team could then go out and remove them. This will be discussed further next month.
- Barberry Removal – This topic was discussed at the workshop. The recommendation is to remove small outliers prior to the shrubs getting too large. To physically remove barberry, they recommend to cut them down and dab herbicide on the open stump (wearing protective gear).
- Lot Disturbance/Coverage Research – No update available
 - Plastic Bag Ban – EC members reviewed a sample ordinance provided by ANJEC, a list of mostly shore towns who have adapted plastic bag ordinances and discussed places in Byram that utilize plastic bags. As the proposed bill has not yet been passed, members will keep informed on its status and will not pursue an ordinance at this time. It was reported that SALT pro-actively eliminated use of plastic straws!
 - Township Calendar Project – The feasibility continues to be researched but this would not be undertaken this year.

Planning Board Applications:

- Hergert (Elite Automotive) – 254 Route 206 – Block 216, Lot 3.04 – EC reviewed this application along with pictures from May on-site visit by Helene and Jim. The following comments were made:
 - EC recommends the wrecks to be removed as there is concern with the potential of wreck residue (e.g. Oil, gas, antifreeze, brake/transmission fluid) finding its way to the stream.
 - Is there any secondary containment to prevent run-off into the C-1 waterway?
 - Please label and move all drums inside, or at least under cover. They should note what is in them and how long they've been there. There is concern that old drums will corrode at the bottom and leak without being seen.
 - Perform a cursory check on their fluid removal records to ensure they are being removed in a timely manner and that the company they use is legitimate.
 - Is there a hazardous waste disposal plan?
 - What is the plan for maintaining the drains?
- Spaldo – 10 Broad Ave – Block 26, Lot 367 – EC reviewed this application for an above ground pool against a deck and had no comments.
- Crispino – 136 North Shore Rd – 126/2 – EC reviewed this application to add living space above existing patio and had the following comments:
 - Please advise how you are treating run-off from the proposed addition.
 - Please consider a raingarden.

Training:

- June 10th NJUCF Webinar 1-2:15pm – No EC members participated
- New Training – NJUCF “Creating Equitable Career Pathways in Urban Forestry”
https://www.fs.fed.us/research/docs/webinars/urban-forests/creating-equitable-career-pathways-urban-forestry/USFSUrbanWebinarNotice_Jul2019.pdf

Expenditures and Budget:

Balance of \$2,100 remains.

Other:

Donna met with Greener by Design. They might need some EC support to review maps and suggest public access points to connect trails.

Update From James – Tilcon quarterly inspection went well. Nordic is hauling stockpiled stone (Tilcon is selling it to them) from the site to projects they have and to their new facility in Ledgewood. With this operation underway there has been some truck traffic and they will continue to haul on-and-off for the next two years. With Nordic performing this work there is a little bit of activity going on which is a benefit to keeping the erosion control measures and general site maintenance in order. Tilcon does not have plans to produce any more material to replace the inventory that Nordic is removing.

James will not be able to attend June or July meetings due to business travel.

Next Meeting:

July 25, 2019

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:30pm by Katie, seconded by Jim.