

Environmental Commission
June 28, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Members present included James Myers, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Jim Reinhold, Planning Board Liaison Lisa Shimamoto, Councilman Scott Olson, Secretary Donna Fett and Mayor Alex Rubenstein.

A motion was made by James, seconded by Lisa to approve the May 24, 2018 meeting minutes.

New Business:

Byram Day Planning – Registration is now open for tables. The event will be held at Neil Gylling Park on Saturday, Sept. 9th from noon-5pm with a rain date of the following day. EC Secretary will submit the application for a table.

Members discussed potential themes and decided to focus on recycling, in particular soft film plastics. There are a number of NJ towns which are prohibiting the use of single use plastic bags (example shopping bags). EC would like to raise awareness of this issue and will research the purchase of re-useable shopping bags as a giveaway. Scott inquired if we could do a tie-in with the Trex plastic bag challenge done by Boy Scout Troop 276. Donna advised that the troop will do this challenge again in September. We will brainstorm ideas on how to do this – perhaps have a collection bin available and if residents bring in plastics to recycle, they would earn a re-useable shopping bag.

Lisa will create a display poster board about recycling plastics and will follow-up with Katie P. who has done some similar programs on this topic. Katie will do a craft/game to engage children.

Other ideas to research include advertising additional recycling such as shredding (BARKS, SCMUA?) and contacting other groups such as amphibian rescue.

Ongoing Business:

- Arbor Day Tree Planting – Jim contacted Cerbo, who said we could get an 8-10' tree for \$300 plus \$150 for planting. However, he indicated the bigger the tree the more “transplant shock” occurs. He said due to this transplant shock, the 7-8' tree would almost catch up with the 8-10' tree, which would max out at the same height (30-40'). He does not recommend anything over 10' and recommends staying with the 7-8' tree. EC members agreed with his recommendation to remain with the 7-8' tree to be planted by the schoolhouse at 10 Mansfield Drive.

Using the motion made by Lisa during the April 26, 2018 meeting, EC would like to proceed with purchasing a 7-8' Norway Spruce tree at \$300 (\$200 for the tree + \$100 for the planting). Secretary will request approval with Township Management.

- Spring Trail Clean-Up Results – 11 participants cleared Tamarack Trail (from the CO Johnson side), removed invasive species (barberry) and performed water run-off control in several areas where quads have torn up the trail. EC was represented by 6 members and their companions. Additional participants included a scout from Boy Scout Troop 276 and his father and a member of the public.

Committee Reports:

Recreation – Jen was unable to attend the EC meeting due to restrictions with work hours this month.

Open Space – no report available.

MWA – no report available.

Council – Scott reported:

- The Save Our Bridge campaign to restore the historic bridge on Cranberry Lake is underway
- Stormwater Training is available on-line for interested EC members. Scott will forward the link for this session, which is approximately 45 minutes in length.
- Anty Trucking application was approved, with revised plans that included increasing the outdoor storage area with additional landscaping, wildflowers, trees and berm. EC members were pleased to hear there is a firm schedule in place to make the improvements.

Planning Board Applications:

- Mershon – 10 Cabin Spring Trail – requesting variance for a front and left side yard setback to keep an already constructed deck and stairs and a pre-existing shed. EC had no comments to this application.
- Nifenecker – 17 Lakeview Trail – requesting variance for an addition to a portion of the home and to replace an existing garage which is in the front yard (which is not permitted). EC had the following comments to this application:
 - Please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.
 - Please ensure applicant is not going over the existing foundation and further encroaching with the addition.
 - Please advise if it is proper to have a driveway on top of a leach field.
- Scuzzese – 7 Katonah Trail – requesting variance for front, left and right yard setback to add a 24.6’ x 6’ front porch. EC had the following comment to this application:
 - Please consider low maintenance landscaping that encourage retention and planting of native vegetation and minimizes the use of lawns, fertilizers and pesticides in the front and on either side.

Training:

Tree Farm Day at Stag Lake, June 1st – Jim, Helene and Harvey Roseff participated and will earn 4 Forestry CEU’s as a result. Jim reported that it was an interesting day. There were 4 different classes to attend and they participated in all of them. The Stag Lake property itself was very impressive. The

foresters discussed ways to remove invasive species like barberry. They have very difficult to control and said it would take several years of aggressive cutting back to kill the plants, with the other option being to burn them. They recommend removing all ash trees due to potential EAB infestation. The foresters are also recommending increasing the buffer between ponds and development to protect amphibians.

Expenditure and Budget:

Balance of \$1,902 remains.

Other:

- Tilcon Quarry Inspection – Quarterly inspection was held on June 14th; unfortunately, EC members were not available to participate. Members briefly discussed the possibility of a future hike / tour of the site.
- A suggestion was made to create a FB page for EC, perhaps with a link from the Byram resident's page. This was not agreed to and a brief discussion ensued of the existing EC website and potential other ideas to advertise, such as Instagram? This will be added to next month's agenda.
- Briar Ridge Trailhead Signage has been installed on both trails and is now consistent with the Township trails map.
- Scott gave an update on the contaminated wells. It appears that the biological agents/processes are working properly. Multiple governmental agencies and the new water company (Suez) are involved with this project. It is expected that design should be completed by Army Corps of Engineers in about six months. Scott requested that EC continue to support this important initiative. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for Sept./Oct.
- A member of the public who has participated in trail clean-up days emailed to suggest adding more blazes at Briar Ridge Southern Trail in two areas in particular. She commented that the blazes which were added during the 2017 EC Clean-Up event were very helpful. Secretary forwarded request to Township Clerk to contact Forester.
- Township received 2018 Clean Communities Recycling grant in the amount of \$19,925.69.
- EC members were asked to think of recycling topics for the annual mayoral summer letter mailing. This will be added to next month's agenda.
- Lisa reported on a request from Lenape Valley's Environmental Club "Go Green". They are requesting permission to have students attend our meetings. It is likely this would be a different student each month. Scott will research what other towns do and said that the students could potentially even attend ANJEC meetings as well. Lisa said that the students would then be able to put this on their resumes, college applications, etc. and that they would likely request some sort of recognition. Their names would appear in the meeting minutes and perhaps Alex could issue a mayoral citation at the end of the school year. EC members supported the request and it will be added to next month's agenda.

Next meeting will be held July 26, 2018.

A motion was made by Katie, seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 10:10pm.