

Environmental Commission
August 23, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Members present included James Myers, Michelle Rehse, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Planning Board Liaison Lisa Shimamoto, Councilman Scott Olson and Secretary Donna Fett.

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

A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Michelle to approve the July 26, 2018 meeting minutes.

Committee/Council Reports:

- Recreation – meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19th, 2018.
- Open Space – Scott reported that potential long-term acquisitions were discussed at the August meeting. Ben Spinelli is coordinating the new Open Space / Rec / Historical Preservation and Farmland Plan, which can be used to better determine the greatest use of Township owned properties. There may be EC projects generated as a result.
- MRMCM –
 - Michelle reported that she recently participated in a field trip to Musconetcong Sewage Authority facility in Budd Lake. She was impressed with the facility and felt that they truly are concerned about the welfare of river.
 - Highlands Coalition was also present at the meeting and Byram is one of three towns that is fully designated!
 - A new invasive species has been spotted - the New Zealand Mudsail. Research is underway on how to control them.
 - Michelle advised that they are sponsoring a Wild & Scenic Film Festival at Centenary University on Sept. 9th and 10am. They no longer need any funding for this event. The flyer will be posted at Town Hall.
 - Michelle advised that there will be low flying planes in Hackettstown area doing seed covering in September.
- Council – Scott reported that there were no environmental related items from the August 14th meeting but advised that the Stormwater Letters were mailed and stressed the importance of Stormwater Management. There are a few items remaining on the Township's Stormwater Management Plan, including the coordination of Scout Park Clean-up which was discussed at the last EC meeting. Scott reminded EC members to consider taking the on-line Stormwater Management training.

Ongoing Business:

- Byram Day Planning
 - Posters/Displays – Lisa is working on these and will need another tri-fold
 - Recycling Game – Lisa is also working on this. EC will provide children with various items which can be either recycled or discarded as trash. The children will determine if the item is recyclable or to be discarded as trash. Lisa will provide two containers and the children will place the item in the “Recycle” or “Trash” container.
 - Brochures – various recycled themed brochures will be available for the table
 - Work Shifts – Lenape Valley’s Go Green Env. Club may be able to provide participants to help staff the table. Club Members would be asked to help with the recycling game, distribute brochures and help apply temporary tattoos.
 - 9-11am / setup – Jim
 - 12-2pm / Michelle & Katie
 - 2-3 to 4-5pm - Eric
 - Clean-up – Helene
- ANJEC Resolution Request on Single Use Plastic Bag – Governor Murphy vetoed the proposed plastic bag bill. Senator Bob Smith is working on Senate No. 2776 to ban plastic bags, expanded polystyrene and single use plastic drinking straws. This will be reviewed in September and EC will monitor this situation.

Planning Board Applications:

Weber Bros. (aka Sunnyside Landscaping) – applicant requests various site improvements including adding a garage, signage and re-establishing a previously abandoned third floor apartment. EC member discussed the requests and developed a draft list of comments which will be reviewed for approval at the September meeting. This application is scheduled for review in October.

Expenditures and Budget - \$1902 balance:

No funds were spent last month, but anticipate \$300 to Cerbo for the purchase and planting of Arbor Day tree (awaiting revised quote). The re-useable shopping bag purchase was put on hold as EC was unable to obtain the bags to distribute at Byram Day. Members are considering buying bags to distribute at future events, including trail clean-ups and could include items needed for a trail clean-up (gloves, water bottle, etc.). This will be further discussed next month.

Other:

The Township Recreation Director resigned.

Next Meeting – September 27, 2108

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:40pm by Lisa, seconded by James.