

Environmental Commission  
December 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Eric Duch, Helene Jaros, Casey McGuffy, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary).

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

Review of November 20, 2108 Meeting Minutes – A motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by James and seconded by Lisa.

Committee/Council Reports:

- Recreation – a meeting was held on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, no update available.
- Open Space – a meeting was held on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Eric reported that the Highlands Council approved an \$80,000 grant to:
  - Update Open Space and Recreation Plans,
  - Creation of a Trails Master Plan,
  - Eco-Tourism based Economic Development Plan and
  - Stewardship/Asset Management Plan

Eric also reported that the Forester had contacted loggers regarding the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) problem in town and believed that 60-70 ash trees would need to be harvested in the Tamarack Park area. He expressed concern that when the ash trees are removed, the tree canopy will open, allowing invasive species such as barberry to flourish. Barberry tends to very quickly grow and encroach on the trails. EC has noted a large amount of barberry on the Byram trails and cuts back the plants during trail clean-up events. A motion was made by James, seconded by Jim, to express our concern to the Forester.

- MRMC – The next meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Council – A meeting was held on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, no update available.

New Business:

Lake Management Plan Guidance (from NJ Highlands Council) – A copy of the report was received and is available at Town Hall. The report provides guidance to aid in the development of lake management strategy.

Ongoing Business:

- Tamarack Trail Maintenance – no update available
- Single Use Plastic Bag Update – no update available

- Annual Recycling Postcard – Secretary advised that Clean Communities funds were spent, so the funding for the annual postcard printing will be taken from the EC budget. The postcards were mailed to all residents and is posted on Township website.
- Recycle Coach – Township Management approved the use of Recycle Coach. The annual recycling postcard was modified to include this availability. The link to Recycle Coach can be found on the Garbage and Recycling page on the Township website.
- Township Annual Heads of Committee Meeting – the meeting has been postponed to January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Michele will represent EC.
- NJ Tree Recovery Campaign Tree Seedlings – an order was placed for 200 seedlings for 2019 Arbor Day celebration. Township management suggested that that EC hold a seedling distribution event on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> (the day after Arbor Day) at 10 Mansfield Drive. EC members prefer to hold the event at CO Johnson Field as they believe more residents will be at the fields for sporting events. Therefore, EC will hold their event from 9am-1pm at CO Johnson Field. Secretary reported that the state received a large number of requests for seedlings this year. She will contact the Go Green Club and Girl Scout Troop to invite them to participate.
- Tilcon Quarry License Application Review – James reviewed the binder and discussed his comments. Secretary will forward comments.
  - We highly recommend that HPA coordinate with Sussex Count Soil Conservation prior to a quarterly inspection. SCSC’s attempts at an annual inspection have been unsuccessful since unscheduled access isn’t available.
  - Is access still available to monitor the Scale House Well located on Block 226 Lot 16? This well appears to be on property new and different ownership.
  - The Tract Map (Sheet 1 of 4) still shows Byram Land Development as owners of property that has been sold to Tilcon. Please revise.
  - The Existing Conditions 1YR Plan (Sheet 2 of 4) shows and existing plant that is not on site. Please revise.
  - The 5 YR Development Plan (Sheet 3 of 4) shows and existing plant that is not on site. Please revise.
  - It is mentioned that the on-site inventory may be removed in the near future. If this takes place and the on-site fuel storage tank is put into service, it should receive a cleanout of the secondary containment system at minimum.
  - What is the estimate of the daily truck count during removal of the processed material on site?

Planning Board Applications:

- Jeffrey Butterfield- 31 Belton Street, Stanhope – applicant requests to add an above ground pool and record an existing shed. EC reviewed this application and had the following comment:

What is the applicant’s intention on grading for the pool installation? It appears that the site slopes to the back and EC expressed potential concern for run-off to the neighbor.

- Dave Hergert (Elite Automotive) – 254 Route 206 – applicant proposes construction of a parking lot with 5 stalls in the front yard, relocation of the main building entrance and proposed employee stacked parking. Lisa is recused from this application.

Eric had visited the site and obtained permission to take some photos which were distributed and discussed. A number of concerns were raised and additional research is needed. The Environmental Impact Statement was not yet available and EC would like to withhold comments until this and other additional information is obtained. This application will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Training: One Dec. 5, Helene participated in the webinar “Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Management” sponsored by ANJEC. She indicated it was a worthwhile session.

Expenditures and Budget:

YTD spending is \$1,569 with a balance of \$1,031. Expected expenses yet to be charged are \$280 for the printing of the annual recycling postcard and \$1142 for the postage.

Other:

- Membership – both Helene and Eric have requested to renew their EC terms. Secretary advised Township Clerk. EC has one vacant position – Alternate II.
- Open Space Liaison Position – The Liaison position expires. Eric asked if any other EC member wishes to take on this role. Meetings are held every other month. No other member expressed interest at this time.
- Municipal Building Subcommittee – Jim reported that a contract was awarded to Nader Group to research various options and a response is expected in about 90 days. Their next meeting in January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Amphibian Crossing Training is being offered by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ – this is available either Wed., January 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm or Sun., January 13<sup>th</sup> from 2-4:30pm. Both sessions are held at the USDA NRCS at Hackettstown Commerce Park, 101 Bilby Road in Hackettstown. Helene expressed interest and Secretary will forward information.
- Township Leaf/Brush Area closed till approx. April 1<sup>st</sup> (weather dependent)
- Final curbside leaf pick-up occurred on December 10<sup>th</sup>
- Trash pick-up changes due to holidays – there is no trash pick-up on:
  - 12/25; it will be picked up 12/26
  - 1/1; it will be picked up on 1/2
- Curbside Christmas tree pickups will occur on January 7<sup>th</sup>

- ANJEC Membership dues for 2019 – an invoice was received for 2019 dues at \$350. This will go on next month’s agenda after confirmation and availability of EC budget funds are obtained. Members felt membership was very worthwhile and enjoyed the training sessions this year. A motion was made by Eric, seconded by Lisa to approve the \$350 membership dues when the funds are available in 2019.
- Tilcon Quarry Quarterly Visit – Eric and James participated in the December visit and Helene visited the prior quarter. They noted that the sides of the road were damaged by water run-off. They felt the visits were worthwhile and James recommended that other EC members participate in the future if available.
- Review of EC Annual Accomplishments – a draft of 2018 annual accomplishments was reviewed. EC comments included:
  - Make annual recycling postcard a separate item
  - Add:
    - Participated in Tilcon quarterly inspections.
    - EC anticipates being an active participant in the Greener by Designs trails management plan with Open Space next year.
    - EC members attend meetings for Open Space and Musconetcong River Management Council.
    - QR trail codes were linked on website.
    - Participated in testing of Recycle Coach which enables residents to easily obtain detailed information on recycling and trash.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Adjourn – a motion was made by Jim, seconded by James to adjourn at 9:45pm.