

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:40. Members present included: James Myers, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto, and Donna Fett. Also present was Eric Duch who expressed interest in joining EC.

Minutes for approval: October 27, 2016 - opted to hold to approve till next meeting as members who were present at the meeting were not present at this meeting.

New Business:

- Annual EC Accomplishments - Discussed annual accomplishments. James to send list to Donna F. by November 30th.
- Boys Scouts - The scout in Troop 276 are interested in helping EC with trail clean-ups and service projects. EC will prepare a list of projects; Donna F. will bring it to scout meeting for discussion.
- New Grant Opportunity - NJDEP Conserve Wildlife Grant is available for the following projects: education/outreach, research, management or habitat protection. Grants from range \$1,000-\$3500 and the application deadline is Thurs., Dec. 15th. EC members suggested to send this to Patti Poff if the school is interested in pursuing, but would like EC to approve the final submission.
- Training - There is an ANJEC sponsored training class to be held on Nov. 29th from 6-9pm at Stockton University with the topic of "Municipal Environmental Resource Inventories & How to Use Them". EC members were not interested in attending.
- Postcard - Byram Twp. may issue a postcard with recycling information this year. If a postcard will be issued, EC would like to review it prior to distribution to the residents. Discussion occurred about what materials are recycled vs. trash and how quickly rules are changing. Donna F. advised that she is revising the township website to make it easier for residents to obtain this type of information.
- Trex Recycling Challenge - Donna F. challenged the boy scout troop to do this long-term project with a completion date in April, around Earth Day. If the scouts are successful, they will earn a recycled plastic bench. It was suggested that they donate this to EC to place on one of the hiking trails. DPW agreed to setup a recycling bin at Town Hall for this purpose. Donna F. also contacted the school to see if there is interest in the school to do a similar project. EC members will participate by bringing in plastic materials.
- 2017 Topics of Interest/Goals - Need to plan this by end of the year. Discussed possibility of topics for Byram Day including Recycling and Amphibian Tunnel/salamanders (have MacKenzie Hall present?).

Ongoing:

- Amphibian Tunnel Grant - NJDEP held a kick-off meeting at Waterloo on 11/7. Councilman Scott Olson represented Byram Twp. It is expected to be completed in 2019. Scott would like to have Byram consider sponsoring "Salamander Festivals" to raise awareness of this unique phenomenon. This would also help the Economic Development initiative.

- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant - Donna F. provided ANJEC with the required grant summary progress update. EC members were provided with draft trail documents, along with the logsheet to track their hours. Target date for updating verbiage was set for February. Trails and the responsible EC member are as follows:

Brookwood Park, Mansfield Bike and Mansfield Woods - Lisa

Tamarack Park and CO Johnson Park - Donna K.

Jefferson Glen Bike Path and Cat Swamp Connector - James

Sussex Branch/Bryam Section - Michelle

Cranberry Overlook, Briar Ridge and Glenside Woods - Jim

- Retention Basins - EC members expressed concern about retention basins which were clogged with leaves and debris. Donna F. confirmed with DPW that the basins on Route 206 are the responsibility of the state (these are located on Route 206 and Brookwood, Lackawanna Drive and by Lynne's Nissan Dealer). A state crew visited the basins the week of Nov. 14th. The state is responsible for maintaining the inside of the basins (including any plantings inside) and DPW maintains the exterior of the basins.
- Mansfield Dump Site - The next meeting is on January 12th. Donna F. is on distribution list for future correspondence and obtained websites with update information. Lisa will provide EC with future updates.
- Septic Management Program - This will be dropped from future agendas at this time.
- Green Infrastructure Initiative (Storm Water Management Techniques) - They are re-evaluating projects within the township and will revise their proposal. No new meeting date has been scheduled.
- Byram Day Wrap-up: Name the Lakes Game - Donna F. sent emails to 27 residents who provided their email addresses to gain their permission to use to add them to the Trails Volunteers distribution. Approximately five agreed to have their names added to the distribution list.
- Storm Water Management Program - discussed if EC wants to participate in any of the options to accumulate points in 2017 (for example, EC could sponsor a poster contest at school). No decision was reached.
- Natural Resource Inventory List for Byram - Donna K. was not present and will provide update at the next meeting.
- Byram School Request/Water Conservation Project- Donna F. attended student presentations on water conservation strategies. She explained to students why conservation is important, what EC is doing and provided students with ideas on how to conserve water.
- Tilcon Quarry - James reported he reviewed the request for the annual quarry license application. There has been very little activity since last year and nothing new. He had minor comments which will be submitted to Council. The motion to accept his comments was made by Michelle and seconded by James.
- 50 Miler Byram Events - Jim represented EC at Oct. 28th conclusion dinner. An article was submitted by the Rec Committee and sent to NJ Herald and Township Journal.
- Rec/Open Space Meetings - Nora was unable to attend the 11/2 Rec Committee meeting.
- 2017 Meeting Dates - Updated on EC website.
- EC Member Term Expirations - Four members' terms are up for re-appointment the end of 2016 and all four requested re-appointment (D. Koenig, J. Myers, J. Reinhold and L. Shimamoto).

Planning Board Applications:

- JP Morgan Chase - Application to rebrand the former Lakeland Bank to a new Chase Bank. This request includes the following:
 - New signage
 - New building entrance canopy
 - Reconfiguration of the parking area along the front of the building
 - Reconfiguration of the ATM and drive-through
 - New sidewalks and sight lighting

This been deemed complete by the Planning Board. EC comments to be submitted to Planning Board are as follows: No issues with this application. They are making parking space adjustments that do not affect the existing landscaping. All other changes are architectural in nature.

- Olivo - 29 Stage Coach Road. Mr. Olivo constructed a deck without obtaining a permit. EC reviewed paperwork and noted what appears to be a large dirt covered area without any ground cover and expressed concern over potential run-off and erosion. Comments will be submitted to Planning Board.

Trails:

No activity to report due to winter weather. EC will walk Tamarack Park Trail in early Spring and plan to have trail in good shape prior to the Tamarack Park grand opening. The priority for additional trail clean-up was determined to be Glenside Woods and Cranberry Lake second trail.

Expenditures and Budget:

- 2016 YTD spent \$924 of the \$2600 budget. There are no planned expenditures for the rest of the year.
- 2017 Budget - no decisions were made.

Reports from Committees:

- Musconetcong River: Michelle advised the meeting was cancelled last month.
- Open Space Committee: Michelle advised that there is no activity other than Tamarack Park
- Council: Dave - no report.
- Board of Health: Dave - no report.

Additional:

- Lisa reported that she had visited Newtown, PA and enjoyed walking the "trails" which were 3' wide asphalt "sidewalks". Discussed it might be nice to have similar "sidewalks" on Route 206 by Lackawanna. Lisa will bring this up to Council.
- Tamarack Park Grand Opening - briefly discussed having trail maps available to distribute and possibility of having EC members take residents on guided trail walks.

Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 10pm made by Jim, seconded by Lisa and James.

Next Meeting - MONDAY, December 19th (change due to holiday schedule).