

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:40. Members present included: James Myers, Nora Amato, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto, and Donna Fett. Also present as guest was Amanda Hayes, NJ Watershed Ambassador.

Minutes for approval: October 27, 2016 - opted to hold to approve till next meeting as members who were present at this meeting were not present at this meeting. November 21, 2016 - minutes were approved with a motion was made by Michelle, seconded by Lisa.

New Business:

- 2017 Topics of Interests/Goals - discussed several possibilities including:
 - Connect existing trails in Byram using "sidewalks" near public road systems. Lisa is discussing this with Scott. Available funding is being researched and this may be a good joint project with Recreation Committee.
 - Update EC website. EC members will continue to review and update the website throughout the year.
 - Update the Natural Resource Inventory List.
 - Plantings in the Fall. Discussed possibility of purchasing some plants and this will be reviewed in the summer.
 - EC will consider a mailing to residents on a TBD environmental related topic.
- 2017 Memberships - Existing memberships were reviewed and a motion was made by James, seconded by Michelle to renew all. These include: Arbor Day Foundation, ANJEC with workshops option, Musconetcong Water Association and NJ Shade Tree Foundation.

Ongoing:

- Amphibian Tunnel Grant - There were no current activities to report.
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant - Donna F. received updated Cranberry Overlook, Briar Ridge and Glenside Woods trail documents which distributed to EC members and reviewed at the meeting. The members determined that some additional detail would be beneficial and the EC members will try to walk the trails to obtain those details. At the next EC meeting, members will review additional trail documents and work together to finalize the documents.
EC members discussed Tamarack Park Trail and it was suggested that this trail document be completed next so it can be posted on the website prior to the grand opening of the park in the spring.
- Green Infrastructure Initiative (Storm Water Management Techniques) - No update on the revisions to the proposal.
- 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). Byram Twp. has existing programs in place to accumulate and track the required points; however, EC will keep this in mind when doing 2017 activities to see if there is a fit.

- Natural Resource Inventory List for Byram - Donna K. was not present; no update was available.
- Trex Plastics Recycling Challenge - EC members contributed four bags of recycled plastics! Donna F. reported that the boy scout troop has collected 112 lbs. of plastics to date and they are on target for meeting their goal of collecting 500 lbs. by the end of April.
- Rec/Open Space Meetings - The next Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for 1/18 and Open Space meeting is scheduled for 2/13.

Planning Board Applications:

- Cellco Partnerships - Application to install a small communications antenna on top of an existing building (Shop Rite). EC reviewed documentation and discussed the placement of the antenna. Lisa advised that this was necessary to receive antenna signal. EC had no comments.
- Andover Wine and Liquors - Application is to become tenants at the former CVS location at 8 Route 206. EC members reviewed documentation and had several concerns. A motion was made by Michelle and seconded by James to submit the below comments to Planning Board.
 - Is there an environmental impact statement (noise) required?
 - Details on water tank required (dimensions, depth, cut-sheet).

Trails:

- See ANJEC grant under Ongoing Business.
- Trails Maintenance Volunteer List was briefly discussed. EC suggested adding Recreation Committee members to this list and Amanda Hays also requested to be added.
- Tamarack Park Trail - it was noted that there are a few small trees down on the trail. Donna will advise DPW.

Expenditures and Budget:

A motion was made by James and seconded by Lisa for the EC to use funds from their 2016 budget to pay for postage for the Recycling Postcard being printed/distributed by Byram.

Reports from Committees:

- Musconetcong River: Nothing new to report.
- Open Space Committee: Michelle advised that Tamarack Park's Grand opening celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th (with a rain date of May 20th). A quote to be included in a news release will be needed from EC chair by February. Michelle also advised that irrigation systems will be needed at this park.
- Council: Dave - No report.
- Board of Health: Dave - No report.

Additional:

- An application from North Shore Water Association for exemption under the Highlands Act for a replacement well at 30 Allamuchy Trail was discussed. A letter was received indicating this request was made to the DEP. The old well was deemed unsafe due to high nitrate levels and a new emergency well was already in place. EC

members had several concerns. Donna F. followed up and was advised that this is under jurisdiction of Sussex County at this time.

- Amanda Hays, NJ Watershed Ambassador attended as a guest. Her role is hosted by SCMUA, specifically through the Walkill River Watershed Management Group. The ambassadors serve as a liaison between the state government, local organizations and the communications in their assigned watersheds. Their goal is to reduce the negative impacts of human activities and ultimately improve the quality of NJ's waterways. To accomplish this, the group raises awareness of these issues and then provides presentations to groups and communities. She was attending various municipal Environmental Commission meetings in her area.
- EC Website - The current EC website was reviewed and minor modifications will be made to update the current activities and members listing.

Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 9:30pm made by Jim and was seconded by Lisa.

Next Meeting - January 26, 2017