

# BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## February 28, 2016 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Present were: Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, James Myers, Catherine Varian, Steve Levy, Lisa Shimamoto, Donna Koenig, and guest Nora Amato

A motion was made by Michelle to approve the Minutes of December 2015 and January 2016, the motion was seconded by Jim

### Correspondence and updates:

- Steep slope ordinance: Tabled
- Community Forestry Management Plan: 5 year (2015 – 2019) Our 2016 agenda:
  - \* Complete tree planting from the first NNL Grant – Phase I approved, trees will be planted at the Jones Lane field in the fall of 2016
  - \* Reassess hazard trees throughout the Township - Adolf
  - \* Complete annual training requirements, obtaining at least 8 CEU's – EC needs to have members earn volunteer credits – Adolf
  - \* Submit Annual Accomplishments report (EC Secretary to submit early 2017 for 2016)
  - \* Celebrate Arbor Day:
    - Discussed different Arbor Day topics - Planting and dedicating a tree to an outstanding Byram resident (Scott Danielson/Dan Florenza); Conserve Wildlife program on Arbor Day at the school on NJ Wildlife; Trail/town wide cleanups (Township supplies gloves and bags); Arrange to have a tree expert give a talk about pruning, selection, identification, and planting.
  - \* Re-certify for Tree City USA
  - \* Apply for CSIP Grant to complete a street tree inventory in developed areas for the Township and/or for removal of hazardous trees
  - \* Begin NNL Grant Phase II planting.

### Business:

- Update *Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean!* Postcard: Cathy reviewing postcard.
- Membership: Nora Amato present at meeting, interested in becoming a member, thanks Nora!
- 2016 ANJEC Environmental Commission grant for Open Space Stewardship Projects - Applications due April 1, 2016. Joe's idea about using grant money to enhance/update/advertise our trails on the website (adding photos, trail descriptions, trail events, parking, maintenance dates, providing an app, and maybe even link up with NYNJ Trail Conference/Allamuchy State Park.) was well received. Will start putting an application together and bring to the March EC meeting.
- Share the Woods signs – Address the issue of posting signs on hiking trails letting people know that during certain seasons hunting is allowed and hikers should be mindful of this. Donna will contact ANJEC to see what other municipalities do.
- Environmental Commission Training – Three half-day sessions are being offered in March designed for both new and experienced EC'ers. These sessions will include info on networking and natural resources in our community. Passed around flyer at the meeting.
- Rabies Clinic volunteers needed April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9AM – 12Noon. Thanks Cathy for volunteering, will let Board of Health know you are coming.

- Amphibian Crossing – First Amphibian Crossing successful. Passed out stats at the meeting. There will be more several more in March. To be put on the volunteer list, contact Kelly Tiece at [Kelly.tiece@conservewildlifenj.org](mailto:Kelly.tiece@conservewildlifenj.org). Michelle volunteered and updated us at the meeting. Conserve Wildlife continues to look for community and political support for funding the installation of amphibian crossing tunnels along Waterloo Rd. Patti Poff is getting the kids in the STEaM Program involved.
- Arbor Day Celebration – The EC needs to host an Arbor Day Celebration (guidelines for Community Forestry Program). Donna will be meeting with Patti Poff Wednesday, 3/9 to discuss working with STEM club.

### **Planning Board Applications:**

- Peter and Susan Mirz – 22 Fieldstone Trail, Sparta. Application for in-ground swimming pool which requires relief from a front yard setback and steep slope disturbance. EC comments:
  - ✓ Landscaping recommended for steep slope protection - ground cover plants and creeping shrubs will prevent/reduce surface erosion, storm water runoff, silt deposits, and maintain natural topography and drainage patterns.
  - ✓ Not enough detail regarding the “proposed walls” or retaining walls to replace the ones that are being removed for the pool. Future topography not presented in plan.
- Cartridge Actuated Devices – Old Indian Spring Rd. Addition to an existing structure, removal of 4 trailers, construction of 3 new structures, new septic system, and various site improvements. Some EC members showed an interest in visiting. Emailed contact info to all. So far, EC comments are (and will hold off giving these to the Planning Board in case anyone does visit):
  - ✓ On page 5 (of 6) Item #10 & #11 under Additional Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Notes; The fertilizer listed should be phosphorous free.
  - ✓ No details on retaining walls

### **Trails:**

- Ongoing - Blazes with QR code to be added to trailhead sign posts - spring
- Ongoing - 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail. Also, need to check the Lee Hill Rd./Ranger Tr. site (Boyd property, right hand side) for trail post
- *Spring*: Brookwood Park trail maintenance
- *Spring*: Johnson Lake clean up (add bench?)
- *Spring*: Downed trees along Cranberry/Overlook Trail that need to be cleared. Emailed Adolf, maybe EC can check out early spring.
- Discussed with Janet about partnering to organize a 2016 50-Miler event throughout Township Trails beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>, ending October 15<sup>th</sup>. Residents will be able to download a chart and keep track of their own miles (pedometer, fit bit, etc.). Dinner/award celebration at the end of October at a local restaurant.

### **Forestry:**

- No Net Loss Grant – Several township properties were identified for possible planting designs. Met with Township staff, Cory Stoner, and Matt Morris (Township Engineer and Landscape Arch.) January 22. Matt will visit sites and put together an initial design. No word from them yet.
- Ongoing - Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager.

**Expenditures and budget:** The following membership have been renewed:

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference: \$50
- Membership renewal for ANJEC: \$360
- Musconetcong Watershed Association: \$100
- Arbor Day: \$15
- New Jersey Shade Tree Federation: passed out membership cards

**Reports from committees:**

- Musconetcong River Management Council: Formally appointed Michelle as voting member, and Cathy and James as alternates on February 26, 2016.  
Michelle reported: National Trails Day June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Open Space Committee: Michelle.
- Council: Dave Gray

Questions during mtg:

1. Will township pick up garbage bags from town wide cleanups? Yes, either the DPW will pick-up or we can call Blue Diamond who will haul away both regular and recycled garbage.
2. Can we post trail maintenance days on website? Yes, Cindy Church will start posting.

**Adjourn:** 9:30