

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Those present included James Myers, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Donna Koenig, Lisa Shimamoto and Donna Fett. In addition, guests present were John Byrne and Michael Cavallero.

Approval of the March and April meeting minutes was postponed until next month so that the EC members who were present at the meeting are present to approve the minutes.

New Business:

- Byram Day - will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9th from 11am-5pm. EC would like to participate and discussed ways to distribute information as well as ways to directly involve residents. Ideas included bees and monarch butterflies (ex. have a bee keeper visit; have children make milkweed seed truffles out of potter's clay, compost and seeds which can be planted in the fall). Research will begin on bees and butterflies. These topics will be further researched and discussed at the next EC meeting.
- Hudson Farms Charity Hike - will be held October 14th
- Mayoral Summer Letter mailing - EC provides information to be included in the annual mailing done by the Mayor. A few ideas were discussed, including information about the new Trails Website or even a trails related contest. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- Review of Yoon Kill Park permit application resulted in several comments which will be submitted. EC members may walk the site as well.
 - Is there a conservation easement?
 - If Cranberry Lake is designated as C-1, a 300' setback is required.
 - Where does the water water come from?
 - How is water run-off being treated/preventing from going into the lake?

Ongoing Business:

- Arbor Day 2017 - Cathy and Jack Varian distributed all the Norway Spruce seedlings to the residents on April 29th. Thank you!
- ANJEC 2017 Open Space Grant - Unfortunately we were not awarded this grant. ANJEC advised that there were over 60 applicants and less funds were available this year.
- Tamarack Field and Park Grand Opening - will be held on Friday, June 9th at 6pm. There will be a flag ceremony, ribbon cutting and bench dedication. EC will provide trail maps for distribution. A self guided hike will be held on Saturday, June 10th at 9am and Janet Meisner will be present.
- Amphibian Tunnel Project - no update was available.
- Eagle Scout Projects for Scout Troop 276 - Joe Sabatini visited the troop and reviewed the list of potential eagle scout projects with the eligible boys. EC suggested to add two additional ideas: blazing a new loop on Tamarack Trail and refresh the Forest Lake Trail between two beaches.

Planning Board Applications:

- O'Donohue - This was a second review by EC. Additional photos and answers were provided to the questions raised by EC last month. There is one comment that was not addressed (How will rainwater runoff be handled)? This will be sent to Planning Board again.
- Aqua NJ - EC had no comments to this application.
- Rubenstein - EC had an extensive review of this application and after initial review had the below comments. EC may review this again at next month's meeting.
 - Why was the first conservation easement created and when? How will this adjustment effect the original intent of the conservation easement?
 - We recommend that the conservation easement include the wetlands transition area.
 - When the original easement was granted, was Lubber's Run designated as C-1? This would effect the setback.
 - How is the run-off of the driveway being managed? We are concerned about the steep 15% grade.
 - We recommend that any new easement be a contiguous area and that it be created in general intent with the original conservation easement(s).

Trails:

Trail Map "App" - Resident John Byrne provided a demo of his i-trails.org website. This uses Google maps with an overlay of an individual trail with designated points of interest. When a person selects a displayed point of interest on the map, a pop-up window opens that can display a photo, other website (ex. wikipedia), text or even video of that point of interest.

EC would need to walk a trail with a GPS unit and document the longitude and latitudes. As members walk the trail, they would note any points of interest. These could include historical features, geological formations, nature oriented topics (ex. evidence of wildlife, certain plants or trees). The GPS location of the point of interest would be logged, as well as a photo taken if desired. This information would be placed onto a spreadsheet provided by John and he would then upload this information to create the trail "map".

Byram could then update the Trail Website to include the URL to the map or QR code.

Sample Stanhope Trail -

<http://i-trails.nfshost.com/loadmap.html?map=StanhopeTrails>

Spreadsheet - is available on FAQ towards bottom of page

http://i-trails.nfshost.com/itrails_018.htm

A motion was made by Donna K., seconded by James, for EC to do this for Tamarack Park Trail. Donna K. volunteered to be the scribe (to log GPS and points of interest) onto the spreadsheet. Donna F. will research Township files for Tamarack Park.

Expenditures and Budget:

Budget of \$2,600, with a balance remaining of \$1,762. No expenses incurred this month.

Committee Reports:

Open Space - the next meeting is June 12 and Eric is planning on attending.

Recreation - the next meeting is June 21.

Additional

- Hold Harmless Agreements for Trail Clean-Up Work - Donna F. confirmed that Hold Harmless Agreements are required for each event that occurs on Township owned properties.
- The EC website was updated to include the results of the Spring Trail Clean-Up and "Making the Rain Barrel" event.
- EC discussed the draft Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) document which was approved to be posted on the EC website. EC viewed the EAB "trap" at the Municipal Building location.
- Scout Troop 276 will begin another plastics recycling challenge and EC members will begin to bring in plastics again. If the scouts are successful in collecting 500 lbs. of plastic film, Trex will award another bench made of recycled plastic materials. The scout's sponsor organization, Lakeland Emergency Squad, will receive the bench if awarded.
- A request was made if there is a 2 acre spot available to plant milkweeds (to encourage the Monarch Butterflies). At this time, Township does not have acreage available and discussion occurred for potential areas. Katie B. will visit sites in Byram where milkweed was previously spotted to determine if it is still flourishing.

The next meeting will be held on June 22, 2017.

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 pm was made by James and seconded by Katie.