

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Members present included: James Myers, Katie Baron, Michele Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Cathy Varian and Secretary Donna Fett. Also present was Michael Cavallero.

Minutes for approval:

- March 23, 2017 - (revision to the Trails portion, should be "Briar Ridge Trails" not "Glenside"). Motion was made by James, seconded by Jim.
- April 27, 2017. Motion was made by James, seconded by Cathy.
- May 25, 2017. Motion was made by James, seconded by Katie.

New Business:

- Clean Communities Grant Funding - it was reported that Byram Township received \$20,817 in grant monies for clean communities efforts from 2016. Information regarding this grant and funding received was posted on the Township website, on the Garbage and Recycling pages. Volunteers in several communities held clean-up days in the spring and reported their results to Byram who then reported them to NJ. These community groups included the Salt Shakers, Brookwood Association, Cranberry Lake, Forest Lakes, Lake Lackawanna and Byram Township Environmental Commission. Previous year's funding enabled the Township to purchase recycling and trash containers for its parks and fields. EC inquired if Clean Communities Funding could be used to purchase a GPS unit for trail mapping, but this is not an accepted use of these funds.
- ANJEC Training - there are two local training sessions being offered by ANJEC. The first will be held on June 27th in Belvidere and is for "Conservation Blueprint Project : Land Priorities for Farms, Habitat, Water and People". The second session will be held on July 12th in Hackettstown and is for "Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review". Cathy Varian will be registered to attend both sessions.

Ongoing Business:

- Byram Day Planning - will be held on Sat. September 9th from 11am-5pm. EC's table theme this year will be "Pollinators", specifically bees and monarch butterflies. EC will develop theme related hand-outs to distribute (coloring pages, mazes, word searches), prepare two raffle baskets (one related to bees, the other to butterflies), offer face painting, etc.

Bees - The Sussex County Beekeepers Assn. was contacted to request bee keeper's equipment, bees, hives, etc. and was asked if a person would be able to participate in the event.

Butterflies - Katie will take the lead on this. She will likely have live caterpillars available and may even have butterflies and suggested doing a release.

A motion was made by Michelle, seconded by Cathy, for Donna F. to contact various businesses (ShopRite, GameStop, Greenlife, Tranquility Farms, Sunnyside Farms) to ask them if they would be willing to donate items for the raffle baskets.

ANJEC can prepare a customized program for us, with a speaker at a cost of \$250. EC will discuss this further after additional Byram Day logistics are determined.

- Mayoral Letter Summer Mailing Topic - copies of previous years' letters were distributed and reviewed. EC would like this year's letter to include reminders on a variety of topics including lawn management practices, recycling, garbage, tick and mosquito control, emerald ash borer, storm water management, etc. and provide links to our website. Donna F. will draft this and this will be finalized at our next meeting.
- Eagle Scout Projects for Troop 276 - There are total of 9 scouts who are eligible to consider eagle scout projects. Interest has been expressed to do a refresh of the Mansfield Bike Trail, build a new Mansfield Bike Trail kiosk and build a new rain garden (or refresh existing) at C.O. Johnson Park.
- Tamarack Park Grand Opening Results - Approximately 80 people attending the event, including Eric and Donna F. Various dignitaries spoke and the event included a flag ceremony and the scout bench dedication. On Saturday, 11 people hiked the trail. An article was written for the Township Journal.

Planning Board Applications:

- Rubenstein (2nd review) - 3 Partridge Road
 - 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 affect 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).
- Daniel - 5 Laurel Cove Road - EC had the following comments:
 - Please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 240) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10' wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings.

- Ensure the proper soil erosion techniques are followed within the C-1 buffer zone.
- Where is the marker for the 100 year flood plain?
- Where does the run-off currently go?
- Where is the well located?

Lisa advised that she will be unable to represent EC at the 7/6 Planning Board meeting on Quick Chek and asked for a volunteer to attend and be able to speak during the public comments session (if this session occurs). Lisa spoke about her landscaping concerns and EC comments from previous years. She will try to get well design data prior to the meeting. Katie B. will be able to attend the meeting.

Trails:

- Trail Maps "App"/Tamarack Park Points of Interest Review - Several points of interest along and near the trail were researched and a document was created. Additional discussion is needed.
 - Johnson Lake - Very little information was available on Johnson Lake. A request was made to NJ on information they had on Johnson Lake. They indicated it "drains to the Musconetcong River and is approximately 36-37 acres in size". They can do a lake survey to determine if there are any threatened or endangered species or organisms for a \$70 fee. This survey would take about a month to complete. There may be interest to do this and Donna F. will research this further.
 - EC inquired if the Township had a GPS unit for us to use in trail mapping. This will be researched and EC will consider purchasing one if the Township does not have one available.
- Geocaching - There are numerous geocaching sites along the Tamarack Park area and EC agreed that it would be beneficial to add these as points of interest. J. Byrne will be contacted to determine if he could "overlay" the existing geocaching sites onto the I-Trails "app".
- QR Codes - James asked if we had the QR Code signage and he volunteered to affix them to the trailheads that are missing the signs. Donna F. will obtain them.
- Tamarack Park Signage - Donna F. advised that a resident called from C.O. Johnson parking lot and couldn't find the Tamarack Park trailhead. The trailhead marker is not easily visible from Roseville Road. DPW was requested to erect a sign to direct people to the trailhead.
- Briar Ridge Trail - Eric indicated that a family member had hiked Briar Ridge and had difficulty staying on the trail. He wasn't sure if some of the existing blazes were removed, or if vegetation and branches covered the blazes. However, he felt it would be a good idea to revisit that trail again. This might be a good project for scouts and Donna F. will try to get this done. Eric also asked the status of marking the boundaries and this will be researched.

Expenditures and Budget:

- Budget \$2600, with a balance remaining of \$1762. It is expected that expenses will be incurred for Byram Day activities.

Reports from Committees:

Musconetcong Watershed - Michelle reported that the group is putting sensors in the river both up and downstream from Hackettstown and will be monitoring temperature, water flow, etc. Results will be posted on their website. There are several upcoming events from Musconetcong Watershed including:

- Meet the River (7/8, 7/22, 8/5, 8/19)
- Camp Musky summer day camp sessions for children ages 5-12 (7/10-8/11)
- Antique Boat Show at Lake Hopatcong (6/24)
- Lake Hopatcong (6/30)
- Foundation Day (7/3)
- Annual Water Chestnut Pull event at Port Morris Park on 7/15 (7/16 raindate). A flyer for the Water Chestnut Pull is posted at Town Hall and is on the Byram Township website. A discussion occurred on the importance of trying to control this invasive aquatic species.

Open Space - Eric attended the last OS meeting and reported:

- Tamarack Park Grand Opening was discussed and viewed a big success
- Connecting Tamarack Trail to Sussex Branch Trail is going to be difficult as the state doesn't like crosswalks in roadways over 35 mph. Scott Olson was hoping for help to somehow get a trail to the intersection of 206 & Tamarack from the state.
- Open Space is looking to get Forester involved in setting up deer management on our properties.
- Township is thinking about acquiring some property in Lake Forest that might be suitable for milkweed plantings.
- The next Open Space Meeting is August 14.

Other:

- Mansfield Superfund Press Release - EC had a discussion on the article in the Township Journal about the water source for West Brookwood residents who have contaminated wells.
- Website Updates:
 - Posted document on how NJ DEP determines C-1 status and details on how Lubbers Run was classified as C-1

- Updated driving directions to Tamarack Park Field
- Posted flyer on Musconetcong's Water Chestnut Pull event on 7/15

- National Moth Week (July 22-30) - Michael Cavallaro indicated that he will be running an event at Allamuchy Mountain State Park (tentative dates July 26th or 28th). He would set up a bright light source with white sheet backdrop to attract and subsequently collect moths. He would then create an inventory list of the various species that were collected and submit them to Allamuchy Mountain State Park and the software platform provided by Project Noah which collects ecological data from citizen science events. EC agreed this is a great idea and will support the event. The boy scouts will be invited as well.

Next Meeting - July 27, 2017

Adjourn - the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm by a motion made by Jim, seconded by Katie.