

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Members present included: James Myers, Nora Amato, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Lisa Shimamoto, Cathy Varian and Secretary Donna Fett. In addition, Bob Rommello, representing the East Brookwood Water Association, was present.

A motion was made by Nora, seconded to Eric to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2017 meeting.

New Business:

- Mr. Rommello spoke to the EC about the nitrate contaminated wells in East Brookwood. The Water Association will be at the Sept. 7th Planning Board meeting to discuss Quick Chek. The association's concerns encompass the abundance of trucks, safety concerns of the nitrate plumes from the wells and general gas station related. Mr. Rommello requested EC to support their concerns. Lisa explained that the EC concerns were previously expressed and included the potential pollution from a gas station which could affect air, soil and water.
- ANJEC 2017 Environmental Achievement Award - EC reviewed the requirements for this award (projects which began after 1/1/15 and which were completed by 8/13/17). After a discussion on EC projects that occurred during this time period, it was determined to not apply for this award.

Ongoing Business:

- Byram Day Planning:
 - Donations - follow-up continues with the businesses and verbal commitments or items have been obtained from Lowes, ShopRite, Sunnyside, Stop & Shop and Tranquility Farms. The list of business and items donated was reviewed. The EC Secretary will create the appropriate resolutions and thank you letters. Volunteers may be needed to pick up items.
 - Raffle Baskets - EC Secretary will create the two raffle baskets - one with a bee related theme and the other with a butterfly related theme. Each basket will contain at least one \$25 gift card as well as other donated items, with an overall value of approximately \$50 per basket.
 - ShopRite donated a \$50 gift card. A motion was made by James and seconded by Cathy for EC Secretary to exchange the \$50 gift card for two \$25 gift cards. One gift card would be placed in a raffle basket and the other gift card would be used to purchase items at ShopRite such as Burts Bees items, storage bags for butterfly crafts, etc.
 - Katie B. donated a butterfly book and milkweed seeds for the basket.
 - Motion was made by James and seconded by Cathy for EC Secretary to purchase additional items for the baskets to balance out the dollar value between the two baskets.

- Trifold Posters - Katie will create the butterfly trifold and the EC Secretary will create the bee trifold.
- Water will be available from the spigot by Town Hall.
- EC members will need to distribute brochures and radon kit coupons for the Board of Health (BOH). The BOH table will be placed next to EC.
- Hound Honey Farms reserved their own table but Justin will still do a bee keeper's demo and will bring equipment/suit for children to try out. EC Secretary requested his table to be near EC's table.
- Volunteer Schedule was confirmed and will be as follows:
 - Set up - Donna F./Katie B. (Katie B. will also be at the table till noon and be present most of the day)
 - Noon - 2pm - Michelle, Nora
 - 2pm - 4pm - Cathy
 - 4pm - end - Lisa
- Mayoral Summer Mailing (Stormwater Letter) - the annual stormwater letter and helpful tips will be mailed to all residents and business owners by the end of August.
- Training Updates From ANJEC Sessions Recently Attended - Cathy attended two training sessions: June 27th "Conservation Blueprint Project: Land Priorities for Farms, Habitat, Water and People" and July 12 "Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review". She advised that the training was very interesting and informative. Cathy said each training session was about 3 hours in length, provided the opportunity to visit different tables and consisted of multiple topics of interest. ANJEC is very knowledgeable about a variety of environmental issues and Cathy suggested we take advantage of that knowledge base as we are ANJEC members.
- Membership Renewal Request - NJ Highlands Coalition (wasn't renewed in 2016). Additional information regarding the benefits to renewing this membership obtained and provided to EC. After discussion, EC determined there was little benefit for us to renew our membership.

Planning Board Applications:

- Bonker - 29 Strawberry Point Drive - applicant replaced a wood deck and is requesting a front yard variance of 14.2' and an increase of 336 sq. ft. for allowable principal building coverage. EC had no comments to this application.
- Botto - 13 Ash Street - applicant would like to add a 460 sq. ft. addition, increase the driveway width by 148 sq. ft. and construct a retaining wall along the side and rear of the dwelling. This requires multiple variances. EC had following comment to this application, which will be submitted to the Planning Board Secretary:
 - EC would like to see the drywell collect all water generated from the roof gutter system on the dwelling. Analysis that demonstrates the drywell is adequately sized to handle this volume should be provided.
- Finegan - 26 Stony Brook Road - applicant would like to add a 96 sq. ft. addition in the rear and replace the deck/expansion on the left side of the house. This requires multiple variances. EC

had the following comments to this application, which will be submitted to the Planning Board Secretary:

- Please ensure Highlands Exemption approval was obtained for building within the C-1 buffer of Rubbers Run.
- Please consider crushed stone, permeable pavers or QP driveway rather than paved impervious materials.
- Please consider a rain garden or adding a dry well to collect stormwater runoff created by the new addition.

Trails:

- Trail Maps "App" - John Byrnes was contacted to ask if EC needed to complete the spreadsheet to populate Points of Interest on the i-trails "app". He said that the spreadsheet is required if points are interest are to be included, but that the KMZ file would help. Katie B. hiked the Tamarack Trail and will take pictures including the GPS coordinates. She volunteered to do the spreadsheet and EC Secretary will provide the spreadsheet.
- The Byram Township Historical Society was contacted to inquire if they had historical information on Johnson Lake. The document was provided to EC, found to be interesting and will added as a Point of Interest on the trail maps "app".

Expenditures and Budget - Budget \$2,600, with a balance remaining of \$1,733.

- \$17.29 spent at WB Mason for butterfly craft supplies for Byram Day
- \$11.80 spent at WB Mason for tri-folder posters for Byram Day
- EC discussed the possibility of purchasing a GPS unit for members to use when walking the trails, to readily capture the coordinates needed to populate the i-trails spreadsheet. In addition, it was suggested to consider purchasing light trail maintenance tools. This will be added to next month's agenda.

Reports From Committees:

- Open Space meeting was held on August 14th and Eric participated.

Other:

- Congressman Frelinghuysen will visit the Superfund site on Sept. 19th at 9am.
- Trex Plastic Challenge Update - the scouts have collected over 100 lbs. of plastics.

Follow-up From Last Month:

- DPW was asked to consider painting a crosswalk by the Tamarack Trailhead by C.O. Johnson Park so hikers could safely cross Roseville Road, discourage speeding, etc. This was suggested to DPW and DPW advised that this would require Council involvement and researching the legal aspects.
- The Forester was contacted to inquire about the best places to plant milkweed seeds/truffles in town as well as to obtain an update on the marking of the trail boundaries.
 - Milkweed Plantings - He indicated that milkweed plants need a lot of sun. He suggested to consider plantings at Briar Ridge North, Whipoor Will Lane, power line and perhaps C.O. Johnson Field. Prior to any plantings, Township approval would be needed along with potential coordination with DPW. If this is done, EC suggested having signage put up to state "Protected Monarch Area" or something similar. EC members brainstormed other potential areas to plant milkweed and these included around the schools as well as railroad tracks by Cranberry Clubhouse).
 - Trail Boundary Markings - Briar Ridge is mostly complete
 - EC Secretary advised that a meeting with the Forester, Open Space Consultant and Township employees will occur to ensure that duplicate efforts are avoided.

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn at 10:15pm was made by Eric and seconded by James.

Next Meeting - September 28, 2017.