

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Members present included: Katie Baron, Eric Duch, James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto and Secretary, Donna Fett.

A motion was made by Jim, and seconded by Lisa to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2017 meeting.

New Business:

- Township Committee Chair Meeting Update - Jim Reinhold represented EC at this meeting. He reported that Ray Bonker talked about Open Space Committee activities. Jim talked about EC activities and informed others committee chairs that we are reviewing our mission statement with the intent to match the ordinance. Trails were discussed. EC was advised that as trails are completed or if new trails that are created, these fall under Rec Committee for both use and maintenance. EC should not blaze, move or create any new trails. Jim also said that other committees do not appear to be meeting regularly or have vacancies.
- Finalize EC Mission Statement - A motion was made by James, seconded by Katie to keep the mission statement as is.
- Training Opportunities -
 - Septic System Management for Municipalities Webinar (Dec. 6th) - EC members Eric Duch and Jim Reinhold requested to be registered to attend.
 - Natural Lands Stewardship Workshop (Dec. 7th) - EC members felt this would be more appropriate for Rec Committee and asked Secretary to forward material to Ray Bonker.
- Vernal Pool Report From Forester - The report from Forester was reviewed and EC questioned the scope of work. Was this an update or will there be additional pools assessed? EC Secretary was asked to research if there is a list of existing vernal pools in Township.

Ongoing Business:

- Annual Recycling Postcard - EC suggested adding a statement on the postcard to direct residents to the website for information on special recycling events. EC Secretary will send the draft postcard for Township management approval after Council awards the garbage/recycling contract, with the goal to issue the postcard in December.

Planning Board Applications

- Robbins and Green - 233 Lake Drive - EC reviewed the application and had the following comment: As this carport is considered a permanent structure, please note that this cannot exceed the maximum lot disturbance requirement.

Trails:

- Trail Maps "App" Status - Katie was not able to get out to obtain the GPS coordinates on the trail. Eric suggested she try using Motion X app rather than using a hand-held GPS device.
- Results of Fall Clean-up Day - Event details were posted on-line and an article appeared in the NJ Herald. A total of 11 volunteers (including 4 EC members) met at the Tamarack Park Trailhead. Several residents participated, including a boy scout (and parent) from Newton. Volunteers worked to clear overgrowth at the trailheads, performed erosion protection and removed invasive species (barberry). Additional clean-up work was done at Cranberry Overlook trailhead.

Expenditures and Budget:

- Budget of \$2,600 with a balance remaining of \$1,671.
- The bulk of the balance will be utilized for the annual recycling postcard.
- EC would like to consider purchasing a few hand held tools for use in trail clean-ups. Eric will send specific items details to Secretary, who will research when the purchases need to be made in order to go against 2017 budget and where the tools can be stored when not in use.

Membership:

EC accepted the resignation of long-time member Catherine Varian.

Reports From Committees:

Open Space Committee - nothing new to report

Recreation Committee - no report

Other:

- January Meeting Invite - A motion was made by James, seconded by Eric for the Secretary to invite Mayor Elect Rubenstein and Councilman Elect Harvey Roseff to the January meeting.
- Plastics Challenge - EC members brought several bags of plastics to donate to the Byram Boy Scout troop's plastic recycling challenge. Donna reported that the boys had collected 350 lbs., with the goal of collecting 500 lbs. by January. If successful, the bench comprised of recycled plastic materials will be donated to Lakeland Emergency Squad.
- Jim reported that the Briar Ridge (right side) trailhead post is missing.
- State Park Trails - EC members discussed the new trails tracker smart device tool which provides trail information at state parks. EC felt it was a great start as it provides a trail map, but didn't offer any GPS guidance. In particular, members reviewed the Allamuchy, Kittatinny, Stokes and Swartzwood pages.

A motion was made by James, seconded by Katie to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Next meeting is **MONDAY**, December 18, 2017.