

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 18, 2017 - Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Members present included: James Myers, Katie Baron, Eric Duch, Michelle Rehse, Jim Reinhold, Lisa Shimamoto and Secretary Donna Fett.

A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Katie to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2017 meeting.

New Business:

- Review 2017 Accomplishments for Township Annual Report - EC reviewed the draft document. Two modifications will be made prior to submission: 1) capitalize "boy scouts" and 2) add member resignation (see Membership).
- Plan 2018 Goals and Topics of Interest - EC will keep a running list of potential topics for consideration for next year. Eric reported that Open Space is interested in pursuing Maintenance Grants and EC could share their project ideas (example could be to add a parking area for Briar Ridge Trails).
- Review Memberships for 2018 - a motion was made by James, seconded by Michelle to renew the Arbor Day Foundation membership for \$15. Other membership requests will be reviewed in January.

Ongoing Business:

- Update on Annual Recycling Postcard - postcards will be mailed out this week to all residents.
- Training Update - Jim and Eric attended the webinar on Septic System Management for Municipalities offered by ANJEC. They advised that there are DEP rules that must be followed. A discussion ensued on where septic system management falls under (EC, Board of Health?) and it was advised that Township Board of Health has responsibility for this. The EC Secretary was asked to forward slides of this webinar to Board of Health.
- Vernal Pools Research - EC reviewed the background information on vernal pools and asked Secretary to determine more information regarding Ron Farr's scope of work for the Township on this topic.

Planning Board Applications - there were no applications to review this month.

Trails:

- Trail Maps "App" Status - Katie has not been able to walk the trail to obtain GPS information. Eric advised that Mayor Elect Alex Rubenstein had asked if EC could research any tools that would provide metrics on trail usage. Eric will do some research. EC suggested to encourage more trail usage, we should consider making the trails more friendly by adding loops (for example).

- Briar Ridge Trail - The trail entrance was re-routed to be less steep and the trailhead was moved to be closer to the trailhead across the street. The trail was reblazed. A new trailhead sign will be ordered in January.

Expenditures and Budget:

- Budget of \$2,600 with a balance remaining of \$186 after removal of the \$1485 for recycling postcards and mailing costs.

Membership:

Two positions are expiring 12/31/2017 - Katie Baron and Michelle Rehse.

- Katie has indicated her desire to renew. She will assume Catherine Varian's recently vacated position as a full EC member. Katie's previous position as Alternate I will become open.
- Michelle indicated her desire to renew her position and will send an official email.

EC accepted the resignation of Nora Amato, which leaves another full EC member position vacant.

EC Secretary will inquire if Michael Cavallero might be interested in joining EC. Michael is a Forest Lake resident who volunteered with EC last summer. EC discussed the possibility of advertising vacant positions in the Township Journal in the spring.

Reports From Committees:

Open Space - Eric reported that Mayor Elect attended the meeting and feels that Recreation, EC and Open Space should work together. Open Space's focus is no longer on acquiring properties but rather on maintaining those properties.

Musconetcong River Management Council - Michelle reported that she will be attending a meeting and noticed "Byram Easement" topic was listed on the agenda. Secretary was asked to research this and advise. Lisa also suggested that Michelle advise Musconetcong River Management Council that the proposed Delta gas station may discharge storm water runoff into Byram waterway. Michelle also indicated she although James is her back-up, she will need a back-up for him and this will be discussed further in 2018.

Other:

Scout Trex Challenge Update - it appears that Boy Scout Troop 276 will be successful again in their plastic film collection project. They have collected 435 lbs. of film and their goal was to collect 500 lbs. by mid-January. Trex will award the troop with a bench that is being donated to Lakeland Emergency Squad. Secretary was asked to contact Trex to see if there are other community challenges in the area as EC would like to continue to support this worthy cause.

E-waste - Michelle reported that her school partners with Green Visions to collect unwanted e-waste. Their website is <http://gvinc.org/>.

Secretary was asked to invite both Mayor and Council elect to the January meeting.

The Next EC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

A motion to adjourn at 9:00pm was made by Jim and seconded by Katie.