

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2021

Call to Order/Role Call – the Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: Katie Parrish, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Kymberli Morris, James Myers, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary).

Open Public Meeting Statement - Adequate notice of this meeting has been published specifying the time and access information in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting has also been electronically sent to the newspapers and uploaded to Byram's website, at not less than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a copy of this notice is on file in the office of the Environmental Commission Secretary.

Public Participation - there were no members of the public present.

Review of March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion to accept March minutes was made by Katie B. and seconded by Lisa. All members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie P. reported:
 - MRMC members met with staff for members of congress, in addition to the meeting with Representative Sherril's staff that Katie P. reported on last meeting. They generally support protecting the rivers and the Wild and Scenic River Program and will continue to support funding for it
 - The next meeting will be in June and officers voting will occur, members joined committees
 - About 250 people registered and 100 people participated live in the virtual Wild & Scenic Film Festival and they expect to hold the event next year in the same format
- Recreation – a meeting was held on April 19th and Kymberli reported:
 - Byram Fest is scheduled for Oct. 8th with rain date of Oct. 9th with plans for food trucks, fireworks and touch-the-truck (with EMS vehicles)
 - Miss Byram contest is scheduled for June 5th at CO Johnson
 - Lake Lackawanna has agreed to sponsor the kids tri-athalon
 - Planning a pickleball tournament, a possible townwide garage sale, and rescheduling of the hike with the mayor
 - Interviewing continues for Recreation Director position
 - Rec requested their own Facebook page
- Open Space – a meeting was held on April 12th and Eric provided his report as follows:
 - Eric hiked out two alternate trails attached to Cranberry Overlook with the Township Forester. It's been flagged with blue tape starting at the top
 - Kellogg blazed a trail from Tamarack Road near the corner of Roseville going over the mountain and coming out on Roseville between Wolf Lake and Lackawanna

- The rest of COJ improvements are in the preliminary design phase. He would be glad to present comments on the two options
- Council – Harvey reported that the municipal building updates should be available in May or June. In addition, Council will be reviewing comments to the COJ Park redesigns and encouraged EC to submit their comments as soon as possible

New Business:

- Spring Volunteer Day – to be held on Sat., May 8th from 9-noon with the Township Forester at Tamarack Park Trail. This event is the final deliverable for the ANJEC grant and the focus of this event is on emerging invasive plants. Heather Gracie, Township Forester, will participate and will bring pictures of the invasives to be removed. She will also provide training on the proper removal method. She recommends to bag any plants that have fruit or seeds. If there are a large number of volunteers, Heather suggested splitting the group up – have a group start up at the Route 206 entrance and hopefully meet up in the middle.
 - EC volunteers will be Dana, Katie B., Katie P., Lisa and possibly Kymberli
 - Katie B. will pick up bottled water from Gerry
 - Donna will drop off Hold Harmless Agreements, gloves and bags and request a Nixle
 - Lisa will make signs
- Forest Management Bills (A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550 and A-4845/S-3548) - have been introduced in the NJ State Legislature and were sent to both Open Space and Township Manager. EC will monitor them. These bills will cost our town money, require us to allow forest management practices such as logging in our parks and forests, even if we oppose such practices, and completely eliminate our oversight
 - A-4843/S-3549 - requires counties, municipalities and non-profit land trusts to prepare and implement Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) for any forested public lands of 25 acres or more without justification
 - A-4844/S-3550 - will remove municipal oversight from the FSP approval process, effectively restricting any public input in the stakeholder process, leaving it to the forester to determine management of local public lands and forests
 - A-4845/S-3548 - sets an arbitrary minimum acreage for prescribed burns: 50,000 acres are to be burned in the Pinelands and an additional 10,000 acres anywhere statewide outside the Pineland

Old Business:

- Arbor Day Planning - thank you to James for picking up seedlings! We received:
 - 75 flowering dogwood
 - 100 black gum
 - 125 white pine
 - 100 white oak
 - 100 pin oak
 - Volunteer Schedule:
 - 8:30 / setup – James, Donna, Ralph, Bill, Holly and Dana
 - 10:00 – Katie P., Eric

- 11:00 – Lisa, Kimberli
 - 12:30 - cleanup – Donna, Ralph, Bill, Holly, Harvey
- Advertisements – Township Nixle, press release sent to NJ Herald and Township Journal, poster placed in Tamarack Park Trailhead kiosk, emails sent to previous EC volunteers, Go Green Club, Scouts, Stanhope EC, lake community contacts and ANJEC
- Secretary will bring sign-in sheets, EC banner, hold harmless agreements, pens, clipboards, bags, balloons and posters. Dana will bring buckets and newspaper
- Landscape Architect’s Overview for CO Johnson Park - EC reviewed the various options and had the following comments which will be submitted to Council Liaison
EC prefers Option #1 and has the following comments/concerns:
 1. EC is concerned about cutting trees to make room for the dog park
 2. EC feels there is insufficient parking and suggest to increase parking. A suggestion to consider is to remove the "athletic clubs storage area" and replace it with additional parking spaces
 3. EC recommends to place the dog park area in "overflow parking area". If that is not feasible, EC prefers having dog park on same side of street at COJ
 4. Different plantings between Options 1 and 2 were noted, specifically between the soccer and football fields. EC prefers Option #1 as there are more trees

Trail Specific Comments:

1. EC prefers the trail design in Option #1
2. Requests to limit any disturbance by Tamarack Park Trailhead
3. On Option #2 - concern was expressed over the close proximity to private property of the blue trail on the north side of COJ. EC is concerned about the likelihood of people discarding trash that will make its way on private property. It was noted that this occurs on other trails
4. On Option #2 (having the dog park in Tamarack Park):
 - EC feels the location of the new parking area should be closer to the Peachtree Road. This part of the park is already disturbed and if additional parking were to be added it should be increased to accommodate additional parking for people using the ball fields along Roseville Road and would balance the parking situation in the park and reduce the occurrence of residents parking along Peachtree Street making park access safer (comment submitted by member who was not present during the EC meeting)
 - Consideration should be given to accommodate and include existing and future trail connections, ie the Hudson Farm Trail (comment submitted by member who was not present during the EC meeting)

Please share:

Additional lighting plans

Stormwater Management Plan

- Comments to Invasive Species Report – members reviewed the comments prepared by Dana and these will be sent to Mike Van Clef to include in his report
- TREX Plastic Bag Challenge Update – Members would like to sponsor a challenge to collect 500 lbs. of plastics in a 6 month period. Request will be sent to Township Management if they will permit a collection box to be placed at Town Hall. Members would pick up the bags as needed and bring them to Stop & Shop for disposal

- Proposed Impervious Coverage Addition – Township management advised EC Chair to work with Council liaison to bring this up at future Council meeting. Chair will prepare an introductory letter and Secretary will request to have this topic added to May 18th Council agenda

Planning Board Applications:

- Burke, Linda & Richard – 12 Meadowbrook Terrace – Block 297, Lot 14. EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Members fully support the comments on the Lake Mohawk Country club letter (Section 1) regarding creating a rain garden. Please advise where you propose to place it
 - Although this may not be feasible due to the rock ledge, if possible, please adhere to the Township ordinance Chapter 24) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings
- Lovenberg, Robert Jr. – 285 Lackawanna Drive – Block 344, Lot 33.05. EC members reviewed this application and had the following initial comments:
 - Members noted that the application is not entirely complete and requests the Environmental Impact Statement to be provided
 - Members noted missing pages on the 2021-26-2 “Amended Site Plans” document. It shows the document has 11 pages and only 1 was provided. Please provide missing documentation
 - Members requested a drainage plan to be created for the site as it exists now, as if the applicant was coming for approval for what they’ve already done, before they actually did it
 - Additional comments will be provided after the review of missing materials

Training: Dana registered for May webinar on EAB. The Township needs at least 8 NJUCF CEU’s each year. Kymberli and Donna participated in webinars as well. Provided we obtain the certificates for sessions already attended, we will have 6 CEU’s so need at least 2 more. Secretary will send links of future webinars

Membership: There is currently one open seat. However, there is a possibility of an additional vacancy. Secretary will follow-up

Budget: The full EC budget of \$2600 was approved by Council and the balance remaining is \$2210

Other:

Township Tire Event – April 26th through May 1st

Spring Trail Clean-Up – May 8th

A member brought up a littering concern. It’s been noted that the free shopper newspapers from NJ Herald being delivered in driveways are not being picked up by residents. Secretary will inform Township management.

CAG update – the next virtual meeting is scheduled for May 5th and details will be sent to members when received

Next Meeting to be held May 27, 2021

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:25pm by Katie B., seconded by James and all members were in favor.