

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Role Call / Call to Order - The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:45pm. Members present were Eric Duch, James Myers, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Kymberli Morris, Katie Parrish, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board 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 – No members of the public participated in this meeting.

Review of December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes – A motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Lisa, seconded by James. All members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie P. reported that the MWA's Wild and Scenic Film Festival (virtual this year) will occur in late February. She will send the registration link to be distributed
- Recreation – a meeting was held on Jan. 20th; Byram Fest is tentatively scheduled for June 12th
- Open Space – goals for 2021 were discussed. A few proposals for concept plans for CO Johnson upgrades are being obtained. The Forester confirmed receipt of the invasive species report from EC's recent events
- Council – Liaison was not present; however his update included:
 - On Feb. 9th there will be a joint Council/Building Subcommittee meeting to review plans and estimates. Secretary will forward information to members
 - Meetings regarding redesign of our parks and rec fields will occur in the coming weeks/months. The landscape architect overview plan will be distributed to members
 - Council has moved forward to establish a reverse auction for electricity pricing. If it leads to a contract, will select an electricity producer for households, with a goal of at least an 8% savings

New Business:

- Nominations for Chair/Vice Chair – A motion was made by James, seconded by Lisa for Gerry to continue his role as Chair. All members were in favor. A motion was made by Katie B., seconded by Dana for Eric to continue his role as Vice Chair. All members were in favor
- Comments to Tilcon Quarry Annual License Application – Members reviewed James' comments. A motion was made by Eric, seconded by Lisa, with all members in favor to submit comments to Township management
 - On most drawings it shows Block 226 Lot 16 as a Tilcon owned parcel. Please correct that
 - The Page Environmental Report, Exhibit 10, includes language in Section H.1. that states trees removed in future phases of quarrying expansion will be recycled under a Timber

Stand Improvement Plan as approved by the forestry service. Please comment on the existence of this plan. Please also comment on the presence of trees in the area designated as *Proposed Clearing 2020* as shown on the 5-year development plan

- The 5-year development plan does not call out any clearing area for 2021. Please comment on that
- Change of Nov. 15th Meeting Date – Open Space is meeting on Nov. 15th; therefore we will need to move to Nov. 16th. Motion to accept change in meeting date was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor
- Update on Sussex County Recycling Coordinators Meeting – Secretary advised that:
 - Of the 24 towns in Sussex County, 10 are using Recycle Coach (Byram is one of them). Top ten searches for 2020 included latex paints, leaves and batteries
 - Use of batteries is expected to increase as electric vehicle manufacturers are utilizing more. A few new battery recycling facilities are operational.
 - The annual recycling tonnage process has begun
- 2021 Goals – members brainstormed the following goals:
 - Arbor Day Event – members would like to sponsor an Arbor Day event to distribute tree seedlings on Saturday, April 24th. Two state programs were discussed and EC would like to utilize the free seedlings offered by NJ Community Tree Recovery program which helps replace trees lost to Superstorm Sandy and the damage caused by several new invasive insects. The free seedlings must be picked up on Thursday, April 22nd between 9am-2pm in Lake Hiawatha. Katie P. and/or James would be willing to do this. A motion was made by Dana, seconded by Eric to order 500 seedlings and all members were in favor

Two distribution plans were discussed and both would adhere to COVID restrictions. Plan A is to distribute seedlings at CO Johnson Park only if there will be opening day activities for baseball/softball. Plan B is to distribute seedlings at ShopRite parking lot near McDonalds where organizations typically hold car washes

 - Sponsor Community Wildlife Habitat Program
 - Sponsor Two Trail Clean-ups
 - Sponsor invasive species events similar to the highly successful ones held in 2020
 - Update Stormwater Management Ordinance
 - Develop Impervious Coverage Ordinance

Old Business:

- Lot Disturbance/Impervious Coverage Ordinance – was submitted to the Zoning Officer for comments. Initial comments were made but he requested additional time to do further review. When his comments are received, they will be shared with EC members. Lisa will present the consolidated comments to the Planning Board. When comments have been received from the Planning Board, the EC Chair will present request to Mayor & Council
- Invasive Species Grant Report Review – confirmed that Forester received the report. Secretary was asked to issue the report in non-pdf format so members can make comments. Dana indicated that there may be invasive species that are missing and noted that references were made to Johnson

Park which should be changed to Tamarack Park Trail. It is believed that Gerry (who was not present) had access to the excel data that was used to record invasives.

Planning Board Applications:

- Lukich, Kevin – 27 Deer Run, Block 284, Lot 211 – members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Please explain your drainage plans to handle the additional water run-off
 - Please maintain the wooded area in the back portion of the property as it may be a possible riparian buffer designated area
 - On the survey, it appears the building the “2 ½ story frame dwelling” and the “1 story frame dwelling” should be switched. Please confirm

- Warden, Trevor – 115 Lake Drive, Block 249, Lot 101 – members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Comparing the original survey to the updated survey, it appears the driveway which was previously gravel has now increased in size and is paved. Please explain what occurred
 - Please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 24) on the need to establish a vegetable buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings

- Humphrey, Craig – 18 Broad Street, Block 26, Lot 364 – members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - In the area of the removed driveway, will there be grass planted?
 - Please explain your drainage plans to handle the additional water run-off
 - Please consider a raingarden to handle the additional runoff
 - It was noted that the survey was very difficult to read

- Toedter, Uwe – 135 Lackawanna Drive, Block 271, Lot 788 – members reviewed the updated survey and had no comments

Training – Members were reminded that the Township needs their help to obtain the annual required 8 CEU’s for NJUCF. The US Forest Service is offering a series on forests, including one “Safety Tips for Working in Your Woods” to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 16th from 1-2pm. The link for approved classes will be sent to members.

ANJEC is offering the “Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commission Members” virtual training at no cost to ANJEC members. Link will be sent to new members to consider attending this worthwhile training.

Amphibian Crossing training is available on Saturday, Jan. 30th from 10-2pm. The link was sent to members.

Membership

Katie B., Kymberli and Gerry were reappointed for their position terms. In addition, Katie P. and Dana were reappointed to represent the Township in MRMC. Members were thanked for volunteering their time.

Budget – The temporary budget of \$700 is available. Full funds are expected to be available in April.

Membership renewals from ANJEC (\$375) was received. Membership renewal for Arbor Day Foundation is expected (in 2020 the renewal fee was \$15). A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by James to renew memberships for both, not to exceed \$400. All members were in favor.

Other

The Waterloo Road Amphibian Tunnel project is underway! DEP contracted with a firm called NVT to produce the design and secure permits. The project includes four tunnels beneath a quarter-mile stretch of road, plus low-profile fencing to funnel amphibians toward the tunnels. It is anticipated to be constructed by summer of 2022. Public information meetings will begin around April and EC will be advised. Members were pleased to hear this long anticipated project is underway.

Tamarack Park Trail will temporarily be closed until further notice while the white ash salvage project is in progress.

Next Meeting - will be held on Thursday, February 25th

Motion to Adjourn at 9:50pm was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.