

Environmental Commission –Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2020 - 7:30pm

Role Call / Call to Order: The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:55pm. Members present were Gerry Murphy, Eric Duch, James Myers, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Katie Parrish, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), and Donna Fett (Secretary). Alex Rubenstein also participated.

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 June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept meeting minutes was made by Lisa, seconded by Katie B. All members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Dana reported there was no meeting in June; the next meeting will be held in August.
- Recreation – Donna advised that their meeting was held on July 16th. The Open Space survey results indicated there is interest in a Township dog park. Rec is researching what other towns have done and evaluating options. Another survey will be issued to obtain additional information.
- Open Space – Eric reported that the Open Space plan has been posted and they are getting some comments back. He sent an email with marketing logos which might be used on Township signage (ex. entrance into Byram Township) and on trailheads and asked for opinions. A few members expressed a preference for the Byram logos; members preferred the bottom left logo or the top middle logo. For the Trails logos, members didn’t have a preference. Open Space will meet again on August 10th.
- Council – Donna advised that Council approved the resolution to accept the 2020 ANJEC Grant.

New Business:

- Review of Annual Stormwater/Recycling Letter – EC members had no comments to the draft letter.
- Volcano Mulching Concern Expressed by Resident –A resident emailed about volcano mulching done on the trees on Route 206 corridor in front of ShopRite corridor. She is concerned it is damaging the trees and requested that EC review new development applications to ensure this is not done in the future. Members discussed the request and will research this with the Zoning Officer.
- Plastic Free July Challenge – Donna participated in this worldwide initiative to reduce use of plastics; Gerry will sign up as well.
- Fall Trail Clean-up – Donna will check with Township Management if this event could be combined with the Oct. 3rd Invasive Species Event.

- Proposed Bill S232/A2212 Review – ANJEC requested EC support to this proposed bill. The proposed bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to take into account the cumulative impacts of pollution on the health of a community before a pollution-creating facility can be built or expanded. Members reviewed the request and felt it didn't apply to Byram as it seemed more pertinent to urban areas. Therefore, EC will not support the ANJEC request to take action on this bill.
- Freshwater Wetlands Project Request For IAT Reinsurance Co. (160 Roseville Road, Block 348, Lot 9) – Proposes to restore former wetland area (27.9 acres) back to its natural native ecosystem functionality in order to restore habit and improve water quality. They intend to eliminate manmade drains and ditches and will replant/seed native wetland plants when needed. Members discussed the project. Dana advised that RCS is working on the project and it appears they are doing a good job. Members were glad to see the former wetland area being restored.

Old Business:

- ANJEC Grant Planning:
 - Determine which seeds to order – members discussed two options to purchase seeds and decided to purchase the bulk seeds. Katie B. and Lisa (and possibly other members) volunteered to put the seeds in envelopes. Donna will order supplies.
 - Water/Snacks Purchase – Gerry will purchase and bring to the August event.
 - Masks – Alex will donate masks.
 - Mike van Clef availability – unfortunately Mike is not available any other days in Sept. or Oct. He is confirmed for 8/22, 9/26, and 10/3.
 - August 22 – EC members who are participating include Gerry, Katie B., Katie P. Lisa and Dana. The event will be from 9am-noon. Katie P. will make a sign to place by upper parking lot so volunteers know where to meet.
 - A resident who has a journalism background will be at the event and volunteered to take photos.
 - The plan is to meet at the upper parking lot at COJ and Mike Van Clef will do the “presentation” in the parking lot prior to going on the trail. Volunteers will sign the Hold Harmless Agreement and will be asked to download the app(s) prior to arrival.
 - Advertising (Township Journal, Nixle, email to volunteers list, website, FB) will be done.
 - Members were reminded to track hours spent on project
- Remediation Project Along Wolf Lake (Roseville Road, Block 357, Lot 1) – NJDEP approved a request to temporarily disturb riparian zone (.376 acres). The project allows for controlling the spread of highly invasive plants. Members reviewed the request and had no comments.
- Impervious Coverage/Lot Disturbance – Last month Lisa suggested that members determine the percentage coverage of lots. This is tabled till next month.

Planning Board Applications:

- Wawa – tabled till next month. Lisa will be recused from this application. Donna will send link so members can download application materials.

- Pangborn – 172 Glenside Trail (Block 305, Lot 2255) – Members reviewed this request and had no comments.

Training:

Strike team webinars coming up include the below. Members were reminded to advise Donna if they wish to attend so she can process registration. There is a \$5 per person to participate.

- July 29th “Foraging in New Jersey”
- Aug. 5th “Go Native! Pollinators in Peril and How You Can Help”
- Aug. 12th “Forest Pest and Pathogens
- Aug. 19th “Aquatic Plant Management Techniques”

A motion was made by Katie B., seconded by James for Katie P. to attend the July 29th webinar.

A motion was made by Katie B., seconded by James, for Eric, Gerry and Katie B. to attend the August 12th webinar. All members were in favor of both motions. Donna will register members.

NJ Forestry Association’s Backyard Forestry webinars. These are each worth 1 NJUCF credit and are free. Donna will send the links:

- Aug. 20th “Farmland Assessment on Woodlands: Multiple Benefit Activities”
- Sept. 17th “NRCS Cost Share Opportunities (Natural Resources Conservation Service)”

Budget:

\$2,215 balance remains (\$10 was spent for Katie B. and Gerry to participate in July 1 ANJEC webinar “Creating and Participating in Local Strike Teams”).

The ANJEC Environmental Commissioners’ Handbook has arrived and is available for members to borrow.

Membership:

The Go Green Club faculty advisor was contacted to inquire about potential student interest in joining EC as Alternate II member.

Other:

- July 25th – Fee Free E-Waste Day at SCMUA
- Aug. 22nd – EC Invasive Species Event
- Sept. 21st (the week of) – Tire Disposal event at Byram Town Hall
- Sept. 26th – EC Invasive Species Event
- Oct. 2nd – ~~Byram Fest with rain date of Oct. 3rd~~ – Members were advised that this event has been postponed until the Spring
- Oct. 3rd – EC Invasive Species Event
- Oct. 10th – Hudson Farms Charity Hike

Donna advised that a resident called to express concern about seeing a large broad necked borer. Members researched the borer and saw that the larvae feeds on the roots from trees and shrubs and as they get older consume the inner bark of trees. It was suggested that this be reported to the Township Forester.

The Township Forester will be attending our September 24th EC meeting.

The next meeting will be held on August 27, 2020.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm was made by Katie B., seconded by Dana; all members were in favor.