

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020

Role Call / Call to Order - The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. Members present were Gerry Murphy joined at 7:40, Eric Duch, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Kymberli Morris, Katie Parrish, 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 October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes – a motion was made to accept the October minutes by Eric, seconded by Katie P. and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – the next meeting will be held 12/15
- Recreation – a meeting was held 11/16 but there were no environmental comments to report
- Open Space – the next meeting will be held 12/14 and Eric will share the Invasive Species Project Report provided by Mike Van Clef (from the ANJEC Grant). Eric asked Secretary to provide update on grant budget so he could report on it at the next OS meeting.
- Council – Harvey reported that Council:
 - continues to review landscape architects for design future updates mainly to CO Johnson Park
 - will discuss a referendum petition against the chicken ordinance and possibly make a decision at the next meeting
 - obtained architectural/engineering materials for municipal building project. Received some design work but no estimate yet on design work
 - had more discussion on the possible second egress/exit strategy for East Brookwood. The Township Engineer will provide more details on the Liquor Factory option. Eric asked if Stanhope would be involved given the close proximity of the project. Harvey indicated that we would probably advise them as a courtesy, as this is probably not on their property. Lisa asked about the potential wetlands issues with this option. Harvey indicated that the Town Engineer felt there was a balancing act and considers it a viable option. Budgetary pricing is being established but this is still in the beginning stages to determine if anything will be done. This will be discussed at further meetings.Harvey reported that there on a state level, there is a bill to promote public private partnerships to provide large scale solar farms on farmland – both for large scale solar farms as well as use in solar farms combined with agriculture

Planning Board Applications:

- Raimo – 49 Route 206 South – Block 35, Lot 36 and Block 37, Lot 26 - EC members reviewed the revised plans and comments submitted from May 2020 on the incomplete application. Members appreciated the clean-up efforts that were made and they appear to trying to be good stewards of the land. Lisa reviewed her comments and photos from her site visit in early November and was thanked for her volunteering her time to do this. She advised that the Planning Board is expecting a video of the car crushing operation including sound decibels. Members had several questions/comments on the revised application and a consolidated list will be reviewed at December's meeting.
- Safa LLC – 16 Weaver House Cove Road – Block 109, Lot 2 – request to raise pitch of roof. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - Noted that the entire property is within a wildlife corridor/riparian buffer. Please be careful during construction to minimize impact to wildlife and potential disturbance to ground
 - Please maintain the proper stormwater run-off
- Bolen – 89 Glenside Trail – Block 312, Lot 2050 – request to repair an existing garage. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - Please be careful when working in the steep slope area
 - Please maintain the proper stormwater run-off from the structures
 - Members were very pleased to see a stormwater management plan including a proposed rain garden
 - What are the landscaping plans for areas being regraded?
- Prokup – 335 Amity Road – Block 336, Lot 31 – request to erect chicken coop and fence. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - Please advise how the chicken waste will be handled
 - Water run-off from chicken coop should flow away from the lake since it is designated as a C-1
- King – 16 Chestnut Street – Block 26, Lot 370.02 – request to add fence. EC reviewed the application and had no comments.

New Business:

- Bill H.R. 3444 – to amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species and for other purposes. Eric asked Secretary to share this with Doris and he will share with Open Space. EC will monitor the Bill progress.
- Draft Bill S2515 – to encourage the reuse of plastic beverage containers to keep plastics from being dumped in landfills, incinerators and oceans. It also will help develop a market for

recycled materials and prohibit the use of polystyrene packaging (“packing peanuts”). EC will monitor the Bill progress.

- Exit/Entrance Strategy for East Brookwood - Brief comments on this strategy was discussed with/by Harvey and will be tabled till EC’s December meeting.
- Lubbers Run – is now designated as a C-1 waterway in its entirety, including all tributaries. Lisa will bring this up at the next Planning Board meeting.

Old Business:

- Recycling Postcard – Township management agreed to EC recommendations to focus on plastic use. The cost to print postcards is \$292. A motion to print the recycling postcards was made by Lisa, seconded by Eric. All members were in favor.
- Community Wildlife Habitat – last month members discussed the possibility of registering for this program. Gerry made some contacts at the school and spoke with a Rutgers Master Gardener who has agreed to help the schools with this program. Gerry will prepare a project outline for discussion at Decembers’ meeting.
- Invasive Species Events/Grant Update
 - Data and recommendations from the grant events will be available to review at our December meeting. The report will be sent out to members next week; members were asked to send any comments to Secretary before December 14th.
 - Last month, members discussed possibility of having another event focusing on emerging invasives in the Spring. Mike Van Clef was contacted and he recommended working with emerging invasives in mid-to-late May. He offered to do training on possible treatments as well. If EC would like to do this, the expense would be taken from EC budget. Township Management does not support modifying the grant to add another event.
 - The mandatory grant progress report was submitted.
- Update on Mansfield Superfund Site – Lisa indicated that the prior liaison has been replaced by a temporary liaison. They have not been having meetings due to COVID.

Membership – Position terms that were expiring have been renewed. These were: Kymberli, Katie B. and Gerry.

Training – NJUCF CEU certificates were submitted to NJDEP as required.

Budget - \$2,142 remains. EC funds are not permitted to be utilized for donations (ex. MRMC Wild & Scenic Film Festival).

Other –

Dec. 7th – Final Curbside Township Leaf Pick-Up

Dec. 19th – Approximate date of closure of the Leaf/Brush Area at Township Recycling Center due to winter weather

Harvey advised that an initial topic on Andover Township's Council meeting agenda (to be held virtually on Thursday) is who will be providing ambulance services. They have a three municipality contract with Lakeland Emergency Squad that includes Andover Boro and Byram. This contract expires on December 31st. He reported that Byram Council will likely discuss this in December.

Next Meeting - will be held on **Monday, December 14th**.

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:35pm by Kymberli, seconded by Katie B. and all members were in favor.