

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020 @ 7:30pm

Role Call / Call to Order – The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. Members present were Gerry Murphy, Eric Duch, James Myers, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, 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 – No members of the public participated.

Review of September 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept the September meeting minutes was made by Katie B., seconded by Dana and all were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MPMC – a meeting was held a few days prior.
 - Alan Hunt, Director of Policy & Grants, offered some comments on the Wawa application. These comments may also apply to the Raimo application. Katie P. advised that they will be conducting the Wild & Scenic Film Festival and it will be virtual. They are seeking donations. A motion to donate \$100 was made by Lisa, seconded by Katie B. and all were in favor.
 - The Highlands Council has lifted the freeze on grants. Secretary has reached out to our contact to be notified of future opportunities.
- Recreation – the meeting which was scheduled for 10/19 did not have quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/16.
- Open Space – the meeting was held Oct. 12. Eric advised that:
 - Invasive controls are being done at Tamarack Park. Barberry on Tamarack Park Trail (CO Johnson side, near the rock wall area by the Old Woods Road) was treated with herbicide by the Township Forester.
 - Over 70 ash trees on Tamarack Park Trail (COJ side) were marked to be removed. Eric brought up the concern of the possibility of damage when the trees were physically being removed.
- Council – Harvey apologized for not participating in the last few months' meetings.
 - He advised that Open Space & Rec have been evaluating the redesign of parks (mostly CO Johnson) to include field use and layouts. They are considering the possibility of hiring a landscape architect.
 - Council passed the chicken ordinance

- Lisa asked Harvey about the Exit/Entrance strategies for the East Brookwood area. Harvey indicated that an overview presentation was made by the Township Engineer. She inquired if EC would be able to provide a review and potential environmental comments. Harvey advised that the preliminary engineer's reports would be available in the Council meeting minutes. This topic will be discussed at the November EC meeting.

New Business:

- Review of 2021 Proposed Meeting Dates (1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/22, 5/27, 6/24, 8/26, 9/23, 10/28, 11/17 Tues. and 12/14 Mon.) – motion was made to accept the 2021 dates by James, seconded by Katie B. and all were in favor.

Old Business:

- Invasive Species Events –
 - Members were reminded that they need to provide Secretary with hours spent on grant activities (not including EC meetings).
 - Members felt the events were a great success and would like to continue. Due to the time of year, it would be difficult to continue tracking invasives at this time. In addition, we would need to ensure that any work done would be done on Township property.
 - It was noted that October event held on Jefferson Glen Bike Path yielded different types of invasives vs. the previous two events held on Tamarack Park Trail.
 - Gerry reported that he expects Mike Van Clef will be able to share the data gathered by the end of October.
 - EC would like to sponsor another event with Mike Van Clef, in the Spring, with the focus on emerging invasives. His fees were discussed as well as the possibility of combining this with the Volunteer Day being planned by the Township Forester.
 - Secretary provided update on the grant and confirmed we were under budget and exceeded the volunteer hours needed. She also reported that there is a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and felt that these projects would be a great contender for award consideration for next year and plans to submit for 2021.
 - A discussion ensued about Spotted Lanternfly infestation and the Tree of Heaven plant which is the preferred habitat of the Spotted Lanternfly. This topic will be added to the November EC meeting.
- Lot Disturbance/Impervious Coverage – This will be tabled till the November meeting.
- Recycling Postcard – Members recommended to focus on plastic use, using the below:
 - Less than 10% of plastics in the US are recycled, and the rest are sent to landfills, incinerated or end up polluting our waterways.
 - To protect our rivers, lakes and streams, use reusable containers and bags.
 - Looking to get ahead of NJ's ban on single use plastics? Many stores sell bags for \$1-2 or you could make your own by upcycling old t-shirts.
- Community Wildlife Habitat – in 2019, members reviewed the possibility of sponsoring the program. Given the focus on invasive species, members felt it was a natural next step to consider registering to obtain certification. Members reviewed the program and the need to

complete certain requirements to obtain points. EC already performs a number of these requirements as part of their normal activities. Gerry would be willing to contact our local schools to get them involved as this would meet many requirements. Gerry will create a project outline and this will be added to our November meeting. There is a \$99 registration fee. A motion to register pending approval of the project outline was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all were in favor.

Planning Board Applications:

- Wawa – 75 Route 206 – review of potential additional comments (scheduled for Planning Board on 10/29). Lisa was recused from discussion. Katie P. will distribute a summary of comments made by MRMC for review by EC members. If EC members agree with the comments, they may be submitted to the Planning Board. Katie P. plans to attend the Planning Board meeting to present the final EC comments.
- Raimo – This application was briefly reviewed and a few preliminary comments were discussed. The Planning Board is expecting revised plans by Nov. 4th. Secretary will obtain a cover letter documenting the revisions and will issue the revised package as soon as possible.
 - The Raimo EIS states that the nearest surface water body (Lubbers Run) is 750 feet to the south. This distance measures the proximity to the stream from the farthest possible location on the Raimo property. The closest distance to the stream where work is proposed is approximately 280 feet. However, the stream top-of-bank and any adjacent wetlands should be formally delineated to determine accurate distances, and therefore, all permits required.
 - Lubbers Run is a Category One waterway and this needs to be stated in the EIS. C1 waters received a 300-foot riparian buffer and the majority of activities occurring in this riparian zone would require a Flood Hazard Area permit from NJDEP.
 - The EIS states that there are no indications of Threatened and/or Endangered Species on or proximal to the site", and that there are no impacts anticipated. According to NJ Landscape Project mapping, the site is adjacent to potential habitat for two State-endangered wildlife species and one State-Threatened species. Three (3) Federally-listed species (1 Endangered and 2 Threatened) also have the potential to be affected by activities at the site according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These species needs to be formally addressed by NJDEP as part of a Flood Hazard Area (FHA) permit application, which is likely to be required, dependent upon results of a formal wetlands/waters delineation. The need for a NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands permit application would also be determined by a formal delineation to determine wetland transition areas.

Members would like to conduct site walk through prior to the November meeting and were asked to send their availability to Secretary who will coordinate the visit with Raimo. Lisa reminded the group that the number of people cannot exceed the quorum. Raimo will be on the November agenda for our final review (scheduled for Planning Board Dec. 17th).

- Cranberry Lake Fire Department – 225 Route 206 – Block 212, lot 7 – request to erect an LED sign (scheduled for Planning Board on 11/5). EC had no comments to this application.
- Peterson – 6 Ascot Lane – Block 337.11, Lot 32.15 – request to install 1,204 sq. ft ground mounted solar array panels (scheduled for Planning Board 11/19). EC had the following comments:
 - The panel is close to and potentially in the riparian buffer of the open water protection area in the rear of the yard. Please work with the engineer to ensure the back of the solar array is far enough away of this sensitive area.
 - A portion of the solar panels appear to be in the drainage easement. Please adjust the location as necessary.
 - The solar panels are in an area of steep slopes. Please ensure minimal soil run-off by planting shrubs and grasses to prevent soil erosion. A list of proper plantings must be obtained from our professionals.
 - EC requests that the trees that will be removed are not removed in June/July in order to protect bat pups that may be present during that time.
 - Please consider planting new trees somewhere else on the property to replace the trees that are removed.

Membership – several members’ position terms are expiring at the end of the year. In order to continue the position, members were advised to email Secretary with their intention to continue. Positions affected are Kymberli, Katie B. and Gerry.

Training –

- October sessions sponsored by ANJEC – Environmental Congress. Katie P. is participating in some of the sessions, including one on Plastics. She reported that it was interesting to learn about the climate and health concerns regarding the use of fossil fuels in the production of plastics. It is very polluting to make plastics. She is also registered to attend a session on Policy Updates and Stormwater. Links to recorded sessions are available should members wish to listen.
- November sessions sponsored by Watershed Institute. There was no interest in attending these sessions.
- NJUCF Training, each worth 1 CEU:
 - Oct. 26th by US Forest Service Forestry & Natural Resources - Katie P. is registered to participate. In addition, Mike Orgera (Township DPW Superintendent) is registered.
 - Nov. 12th by EPA “IPM For Scale Insect Pests of Trees” - Katie P. is registered to participate
 - Mike Orgera participated in Oct. 14th “Millions, Billions and Trillions, Do You Have the Tools to Keep New Trees Alive” sponsored by Urban Forest Connections
 - Eric participated in Oct. 15th “Prescribed Burning Opportunities for Private Landowners” sponsored by NJ Backyard Forestry
 - Donna participated in Oct. 15th “Social Media & Urban Forestry – Getting the Word Out” sponsored by Urban Forestry Today

Budget - \$2,142 remains

Nov. 7th – SCMUA Hazardous Waste Fee Free Day

Nov. 9th – Township curbside leaf pick-up

Next Meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, November 17th.

Motion to Adjourn – was made at 9:40 pm by Katie B., seconded by Dana and all were in favor.