

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020 @ 7:30pm

Role Call / Call to Order - The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. Members present were Gerry Murphy, Eric Duch, James Myers, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Kymberli Morris, Katie Parrish, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison), and Donna Fett (Secretary). Mayor 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 – Scott Olson participated in this meeting.

Review of August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes – A motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by James, seconded by Dana. All members were in favor.

Review of September 2, 2020 Special Wawa Meeting Minutes - A motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Katie B., seconded by Kymberli. All members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – there was no meeting last month. Dana and Katie P. will switch roles; Katie P. will be the primary representative and Dana will be the alternate.
- Recreation – a meeting was held 9/21; there was some discussion on trying to better promote our trail systems
- Open Space – next meeting will be held 10/12
- Council – Liaison was not present; no report was available.

New Business:

- Tilcon Quarry Quarterly Inspection – James participated in the inspection and there isn't much activity at this time; it is mostly status quo.
- Annual Recycling Postcard Topic - Last year the postcard highlighted the safe disposal of E-Waste. Members brainstormed a few ideas for this year's topic, including single use plastics and reduce/re-use alternatives. Katie P. and Katie B. will draft verbiage and this will be discussed next month. The link to the current postcard will be sent to them.

Old Business:

- Invasive Species Events
 - Advertising – Significant advertising, both print and electronic, was done and members were pleased to see the article in Township Journal. The article in the Herald may be published on Friday, September 25th.

- Signage – Lisa reported she placed four signs (at Neil Gylling Park, CO Johnson Park, Tamarack Park Trailed on Route 206 and Shop-Rite by Lackawanna entrance)
- September 26th Participation – Six residents registered to attend.
- October 3rd Location – If Tamarack Park Trail is completed, it was recommended by Township Management to meet at Cranberry Overlook in October. Katie P. had hiked this trail recently and didn't see a lot of invasives. She also indicated that the markers at the top by the loop were confusing. Members brainstormed other potential locations and felt that Jefferson Glen Bike Path Trail (by Hi Glen Drive) would be a better option. This will be discussed with Township Management.
- Katie B. reported that she has some wildflower seeds to distribute at the event.
- Eric and Gerry will work with Mike to better set up the group in the app.
- Lot Disturbance / Impervious Coverage – Members had no additional comments. A motion was made by Kymberli, seconded by Katie B. for Lisa to prepare the Zoning Schedule for Township consideration.
- Hunters Stands – Secretary confirmed that stands are “carry in / carry out” and should not remain behind after use. Members were encouraged to report if any stands are seen on Township properties. A discussion on deer stands occurred including how stands were constructed and erected, as well as liability issues. Members felt that a stronger Township deer management program would help control invasives. EC Chair will discuss this with Township Management.
- Plastic Bag Challenge – Township Management recommends postponing the start of the challenge till the Winter or Spring. Scott reported that the plastic bag ban passed in legislature and is moving forward. EC will continue to monitor this.

Planning Board Applications:

- Gockeler - 183 Forest Lake Drive - Block 360, Lot 1.01 – request to construct a 50' X 22' deck to the rear of the dwelling, and to add a 40' X 40' Pole Barn. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - It appears the applicant wants to build the deck and pole barn in a Highlands designated open water protection area
 - EC noted that in the comments section of Cory's report, there was no mention that the deck appears to be closer to the water than it should be
 - Please provide the location of the gutters and leaders and indicate where the run-off is going
 - Please consider a rain garden
 - Please provide architectural plans
 - EC requests that no trees be removed for the building of the deck and pole barn
- Kill – 202 Lake Drive - Block 254, Lot 9 – request to add a 368 sq. ft. deck to the rear of an existing dwelling. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - Will construction affect the tree in the back yard?
 - If any trees are being removed, will they be replaced?
 - Where is the run-off from the gutters and leaders going to?
 - Please consider establishing a rain garden to capture run-off
 - Please consider using native plantings for foundation plantings

- Anderson – 107 Lake Drive – Block 249, Lot 94.02 – request to add a 368 sq. ft. deck to the rear of an existing dwelling
 - Please adhere to the Township zoning ordinance (chapter 24) on the need to establish a vegetative buffer 10’ wide covering at least 80% of the shoreline, with special required plantings
 - Please provide low maintenance landscaping that encourages the retention and planting of native vegetation and minimizes the use of lawns, fertilizers and pesticides

- Lemon – 2 Elizabeth Lane – Block 337.01, Lot 91 – EC reviewed the application and had no comments.

- Lombardo – 10 Route 206 - Block 42, Lot 112 – request to renovate existing property to house three tenants, signage and parking. EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - The landscaping plan indicates barberry will be used. Please do not use invasive species plants; use native plant species instead
 - What is the planned purpose of the grass in the back of the property? How will it be maintained? Please consider planting native wildflowers
 - There is a lack of landscaping in the front of the building and this does not meet the zoning requirements and ordinances for planting. Please consider using a diversity of native plantings when replanting
 - The majority of the property is in the Highlands Open Water Protection Area. It was noted that the vegetation in the required wetlands buffer has been disturbed. How will this be remediated?

- Wawa – This is on the Planning Board agenda for Oct. 29th; we will add this to the October agenda in order to provide potential additional comments

Katie P. represented EC by attending the Planning Board meeting and presented EC comments regarding Wawa. Both Alex and Scott thanked her for her participation and EC for their detailed review and subsequent comments. Scott will be at the next Planning Board meeting and will present EC comments.

Alex commented that additional materials were submitted to the Planning Board for the previously reviewed Raimo application. When the materials are received, they will be resubmitted to EC for review. Raimo is on the Dec. 17th Planning Board agenda. Due to potential amount of environmental concerns, it would be helpful if there was an EC member present at that meeting. Members also discussed the possibility of a site visit.

Scott shared two websites (NJ Highlands Council Open Water and NJ Geoweb for our use when reviewing future Planning Board applications:

https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis/interactive_map/index.html#

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>

Training:

Sept. 9th – Eric attended ANJEC sponsored webinar “New Stormwater Rules: Compliance & Enhancement”. Presentation materials were emailed to members and Eric encouraged members to review them as the new rules go into effect in March, 2021.

Oct. 2nd – ANJEC is sponsoring their annual Environmental Congress with multiple webinars from Oct. 2nd through Oct. 30th. There is a \$25 fee per person to attend all sessions or \$100 for all members of Environmental Commission. A motion was made by Katie B., seconded by Kymberli for Katie P. to attend and all members were in favor.

Assuming members will receive the CEU certificates for NJUCF related training, the Township will have met its annual requirement of 8 CEU’s. Secretary will follow-up on outstanding certificates. Members were thanked for taking the training classes.

Membership: All positions are filled. EC members welcomed Kymberli Morris!

Other:

Sept. 26th – Invasive Species Event

Oct. 3rd – Invasive Species Event

The next meeting will be held on October 22, 2020.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:30pm was made by Lisa, seconded by Eric and all members were in favor.