

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2019

Role Call / Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: James Myers, Jim Reinhold, Katie Baron, Dana Flynn, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). Katie Parrish, former EC member and recent graduate and head of the Rutgers Sustainability Coalition, was also present.

Open Public Meeting Statement: Adequate notice of this meeting has been made with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

Review of October 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Katie, seconded by James to accept the meeting minutes.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – no report available
- Recreation - no report available
- Open Space - no report available
- Council - no report available

New Business:

- November 2020 Meeting Date Change – Members were advised of the need to change the November meeting to Tuesday, Nov. 17th. A motion was made by James, seconded by Jim to accept the change in meeting date.
- Tilcon Quarry License Application Binder – Members felt James would be best suited to review this binder.
- Recycling Slogans – Members reviewed sample slogans of recycling and clean water themes. Discussion ensued and members preferred “Recycle for a Better Byram”. This slogan will potentially be used on magnets/decals as giveaways for Byram Day next year.

Old Business:

- Community Forestry Management Plan Update – Ron Farr updated the plan with members’ comments. The plan is being reviewed by Township management.
- Community Wildlife Habitat – The materials previously distributed to members was reviewed and discussed. Answers to questions raised at July’s meeting were discussed:
 - How long do we have to certify after we register? *There is no time limit to become certified after registration although many complete this within two years.*
 - Would we need to recertify after a certain time period? *No.*
 - It was noted that a “certain number of homes, schools and common areas must become habitats”. What is the number of homes, schools and common areas? *There is no*

minimum requirement to become certified. Certification is based on the number of points obtained (for our Township it would be 150).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There is a \$99 one-time registration fee. In addition, if a resident wishes to become certified for his/her individual property, there would be a \$20 certification fee.

Members felt the program had merit and discussed some of the activities we currently do that would earn points in this program. James pointed out that EC would need to take ownership of the program. Katie agreed to take the lead on this. A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by James, to register and pay the \$99 one time registration fee. Katie was asked to prepare a rough plan and to present it at our December meeting.

- Recycling Postcard – The cards are expected to be mailed in December. Clean Communities funds will be used for the printing expense.

Planning Board Applications:

Reidener – 14 Briar Lane – Block 365.02, Lot 7 – EC reviewed this application and had no comments.

Membership: Members who's terms are expiring have been contacted and are reminded to respond no later than December 2, 2019.

Training:

- Nov. 21st (Thurs.) 7-8:30pm – Invasive Pests – What They Area, Why They're Bad and How to get Rid of Them at Frelinghuysen Arboretum
- Dec. 2nd (Mon.) 6-8pm WEBINAR – Complying With NJ Stormwater Regulations Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review

Expenditures and Budget: \$1900 remains

Other:

- Town-wide curbside leaf pick-up will occur on Dec. 9th
- Township leaf & brush area will be closed (weather dependent) from Dec. 14th through March 29th for the winter season
- Update on informal Trails meeting held by Stanhope EC – postponed till December meeting
- Reminder for members to be familiar with the Lot Coverage Research done by Lisa as this will be a topic on the December agenda
- NJ is offering a program for free bare root tree seedlings again (to replace trees lost in Superstorm Sandy). Applications are due January 16, 2020. This year, seedlings are offered in multiples of 25 and each resident can receive five seedlings. The state confirmed that the seedlings are deemed "native", except for the kousa dogwood which is considered naturalized as it has been planted here

for over a hundred years. Members remembered the 2019 Arbor Day Event which was very well received and also that residents wanted more than one seedling. Members would like to offer this again for the 2020 Arbor Day. EC proposes to order 250 seedlings. James agreed to be the EC member who would pick up the seedlings on April 23rd in Parsippany. EC would like to distribute them on Sat. April 25th at CO Johnson Park. It is hoped that this would be baseball / softball opening day. Donna will prepare draft Arbor Day proclamation.

- Joint Permit Application for Block 357, Lot 2 (Wolf Lake Landfill) – EC comments were requested on a project to remove and dispose of contaminated soils. Members briefly reviewed the documentation provided and were concerned about containing the soil, especially since it was so close to the water. Dana volunteered to carefully review the materials and provide a response.
- Katie Parrish talked to the members about the climate change problem which is expected to cause changes to habitats and crops, increase food costs, more flooding and severe storm events, etc. The International Panel on Climate Change recommends that average global temperature increase should be limited to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. The current temperature increase is already at 1.2 degrees C. One way this can be accomplished is to cut emissions by 45% by 2030 and by 100% by 2050.

Katie offered suggestions on potential areas where the Township could make an impact on reducing emissions which included the following areas: Energy, Transportation, Building Retrofitting, Waste and Landscaping. Members discussed the list and EC members felt they could explore ways to support this initiative. Katie will do more research and present additional information at the December meeting.

She reported that the draft of the Energy Master Plan is expected to be released in December. This report should make more government funding available for decreasing energy use, especially in the areas of transportation and buildings.

Next Meeting – will be held on **Monday**, December 16, 2019

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 9:05pm was made by Lisa and seconded by Katie.