

Environmental Commission
November 16, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order/Role Call – the meeting was called to order at 7:40pm and the following members were present: Katie Parrish, Eric Duch, James Myers, Katie Baron, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board 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 were present.

Review of October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion was made to accept the minutes was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie P. advised that volunteers are sought to monitor winter road salt runoff on various bodies of water. MRMC is hosting two training sessions (12/1 and 12/6). Secretary was asked to distribute this information to the trails volunteer list. The next MRMC meeting is Dec. 14th
- Recreation – their next meeting is Nov. 17th. They've collected 217 lbs. of plastic soft film
- Open Space – Eric reported that a trails subcommittee may be formed to focus on building, maintaining and stewardship of trails. Members brainstormed and were asked to email Eric their ideas so a charter can be developed
- Council – Liaison was not present and did not provide an update

New Business:

- Highlands Grant Lake Management Plan Grant – a brief overview was discussed and this will be tabled till December meeting when Council Liaison is present
- 2021 Annual Accomplishment Report – Draft report was reviewed. Motion was made to accept the report was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor. Report will be submitted after the December meeting
- Format of Future EC Meetings – Members were previously asked to vote on their preferred meeting format and were as follows:
 - Zoom – 2
 - In Person - 2
 - Zoom / In Person Alternate – 2 (Zoom for winter months and in person spring through fall, or in person as needed to accommodate guest speakers)

Council reviewed the committees' votes and instructed each committee to provide a decision on how 2022 meetings will be held. EC members decided to hold meetings via Zoom and requested quarterly in person meetings

- Reschedule of December 2022 Meeting – Township Clerk advised our Dec. 12, 2022 meeting conflicts with Open Space and we need to change it. A motion to change the meeting date to Tuesday, December 13th was made by James, seconded by Katie P. and all members were in favor. Secretary will notify Township Clerk

Old Business:

- NJ Watershed Project to Monitor Road Salt Runoff – this was tabled from a previous EC meeting. Donna left message with state to confirm they are doing this again. This was discussed with the MRMC update
- Trail Clean-up Tool Purchase – next steps were discussed. Orders are in process. Eric indicated that we will need volunteers to label and inventory the tools and bring them to the storage shed in Tamarack Park. It was suggested that a sign-out sheet be developed to track tool use
- Deer Management Plan – a goal for 2022 is to possibly hold an educational session with Open Space, Council and/or public. It is believed that Lebanon has a plan. Katie B. volunteered to research this further
- Girl Scout Project Update – a hike was completed this past weekend. The girls may be able to come to our December meeting to show us their video
- EC Consolidated Comments to NJDOT Detour – members reviewed the consolidated comments and added the following comments. Motion to accept the revised consolidated comments was made by Katie B., seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor. Secretary will revise and submit comments to NJDOT
 - Liquidated Damages - the contract documents should include a strict schedule and a liquidated damages assessment for exceeding the allotted schedule
 - Schedule duration - the schedule should require the contractor to work at least 24/5 with 24/7 permitted. This would be a requirement aimed at minimizing the duration of the project and therefore the impact to the environment

Planning Board Applications:

- Pirnos – 197 Lake Drive – Block 249, Lot 62 – EC reviewed the application and had the following comments:
 - Members were very pleased to see the applicant's compliance with the 10' wide vegetative buffer along the entire waterfront and the use of native plantings to protect the lake
 - Stormwater management plans were provided for the front and sides of the house but were not provided for the rear of the house. Please provide your plans for storm water run-off for the rear of the house. Where will the downspouts drain to?
- Cranberry Lake Community Club Inc. – Block 193, Lot 1 – EC reviewed the application and had no comments

Training – no update

Membership:

- Eric's EC membership position was renewed
- Eric renewed his term for Re-appointment for Open Space Liaison
- Katie P. will renew her position as main contact for MRMC and Dana will remain as Alternate
- It is likely that EC will obtain a new member in early 2022

Budget – no update provided

Other:

- Final curbside Leaf Pick-up to occur on Dec. 6th
- Township Leaf & Brush Recycling areas will be closed for winter weather approx. Dec. 18th through the end of March (weather dependent)
- The order for 200 re-useable bags was placed. EC would like to place the supply of existing re-useable bags with the old logo in the lobby of the Municipal Building lobby for residents to take. An article for Township Journal regarding the successful completion of the TREX plastic challenge and announcing the re-useable bag availability will be requested to be submitted
- Cerbo confirmed delivery of the spruce tree for Friday, November 19th. DPW will be asked to put up the holiday lights

Next Meeting to be held **MONDAY**, December 13, 2021

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