

Environmental Commission
October 28, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order/Role Call – the meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: Katie Parrish, Eric Duch, Dana Flynn, Lisa Shimamoto (Planning Board Liaison) and Donna Fett (Secretary). Harvey Roseff (Council Liaison) joined at 8:35pm.

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 September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion was made to accept the minutes was made by Katie P., seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MPMC – Katie P. reported that the group reviewed a recent state report which indicated Lubber's Rub is impaired due to high bacteria and water temps. This will be monitored. A discussion regarding what the Township does for street sweeping occurred and this will be researched
- Recreation – no report was available. The next meeting is Nov. 17th. The Recreation Leader indicated that Rec might be sponsoring a guided hike in the future and EC members were canvassed to determine if they would be willing to lead a hike. There was interest depending upon the event date and time
- Open Space – The October meeting was cancelled; the next meeting is Nov. 3rd. Eric advised that they were awarded the Sussex County Open Space Grant and are continuing to work on trails and the dog park. They are also working on revising and re-issuing trail maps. Members discussed the possibility of establishing a Trail Subcommittee with members from Open Space and Recreation
- Council – Harvey discussed the article in the Township Journal regarding Highland's Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. Members reviewed the article. Harvey indicated that the plan was approved by Council; however, they expressed a number of concerns. Lisa advised that it was also reviewed and approved at the Planning Board meeting. Neither group was given adequate time to review the plan. EC was disappointed that they were not included in this review and would have liked to have the opportunity to make comments as well. Donna was asked to obtain the digital copy of the plan to forward to members

New Business:

- Recycling Guide – A draft recycling guide was reviewed and a motion was made to make a minor change and post it on our website by Lisa, seconded by Katie P. and all members were in favor
- 2022 Goals – Members brainstormed topics of interest for next year, including:
 - Deer Management Plan – an educational speakers and information to distribute
 - ANJEC Grant – consider applying in 2022
 - Spotted Lanternfly – an educational event, research possibility of making egg mass traps
 - Sponsor Two Trail Clean-ups/Invasive Species and Arbor Day Event
 - Townwide Drainage Project Involvement

Old Business:

- Invasive Species Event Update – Katie P. and Lisa reported that it was another successful event with about a dozen new people who participated, including one of the girl scouts who is working on her Silver Award Project on our trails. It was noted that the trailhead and trail was not well marked
- Replacement of Tree at Municipal Building – Eric reported that Cerbo expects to replace the tree in the next two weeks
- Impervious Coverage Project Update – Lisa happily reported that the as a result of the Planning Board’s review of the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan, the Board will likely adopt an impervious coverage ordinance next year. EC previously conducted research will be given to the Board
- Plastic Bag Challenge Update – Recreation Committee has begun their challenge and collected 91 lbs of plastics
- Girl Scout Project Update – The girls are almost complete with walking the trails and hope to finish this weekend. They are learning a lot about the nature and fauna of the Township. Members asked if they could see the videos when completed and extended an invitation to the girls to one of our future meetings. After participating in a webinar on Spotted Lanternfly, the troop decided to work on a new project. They will be seeking donations to make a circle trap kit to help volunteers, family and friends

Planning Board Applications:

- Matthew Akerman, 34 Route 206 – Block 40, Lot 15 – EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Where is the wood coming from? How can we ensure that the wood is “clean” and free of any invasives (example Spotted Lanternfly, Emerald Ash Borer, etc.)?
 - Please share plans for recycling of the wood by products produced from the wood splitting
 - The property is in close proximity of Lubber’s Run, a C-1 stream, please be mindful of this special designation for any current or future projects in that area
 - It appears that you are not changing the existing ground surface. Due to the anticipated compaction of the ground, we believe that run-off will be created by the wood storage. Please provide your stormwater management plans

- No additional landscaping is shown. Please consider providing a landscaped border around your storage areas which will help with runoff, as well as define the area of storage. When considering plantings, please use native, non-invasive species and those that are deer resistant
- DeRosa Enterprises, 262 Route 206 – Block 216, Lots 2 and 2.01 - EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Please provide a plan for the handling of waste oils from the service area
 - Please provide a plan on how the wetlands will be protected against accidental spillage
 - Please explain how water run-off from the new building and newly paved area will be managed
 - When considering plantings, please use native, non-invasive species and those that are deer resistant
 - Please reconsider the use of arborvitae. We believe deer will be attracted to the arborvitae. Given it's close proximity to Route 206, we were concerned about potential of deer venturing onto Route 206 and possibly contributing to accidents
- Brito, Fausto and Brito, 37 Lockwood Ave. – Block 26, Lot 352.01 - EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - When considering plantings, please use native, non-invasive species and those that are deer resistant
 - Due to the amount of impervious surfaces, please consider establishing a raingarden to mitigate stormwater runoff

Revised Applications:

- Bukos – 5 Brookwood Drive – Block 54, Lot 20 – EC members reviewed this application and had the following comment which was previously submitted:
 - The property is in a riparian area, so please be mindful of this special designation should there be any future projects and be aware of potential runoff issues
- Fornarucci – 3 Opa Pass – Bock 142, Lot 102 – EC members reviewed this application and had the following comments:
 - Please provide details on the proposed infiltration system
 - Please consider plantings on the southwest side of the property to prevent erosion. When utilizing plantings, please use native, non-invasive species that are deer resistant

Training

Eric attended a webinar sponsored by American Trails “From SOQ to IDIQ: Trail Contracting Models”

Membership – Several re-appointments are up for renewal the end of December. Members were canvassed to determine interest for open positions and Donna will contact members who were not at the meeting.

- EC position – Eric Duch expressed interest to renew his position
- MRMC representatives – Katie P. is the representative with Dana as the alternate. Katie P. may not be able to renew her position due to work commitments

- Open Space – Members were felt Eric was best suited for this position

Budget

Approximately \$1,000 remaining. Members expressed interest in purchasing hand tools to be used in invasive species and trail clean-up events. Eric prepared a list of tools and this was reviewed by members. Eric will modify the list. A motion to purchase tools not to exceed \$900 was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all member were in favor.

Other

Stanhope EC would like to perhaps work on a grant together. Potential ideas were discussed and members felt this was a possibility. Members were invited to attend their meetings, which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Stanhope Municipal Building.

Important Dates:

Nov. 6th – Household Hazardous Waste Day at SCMUA

Nov. 8th – Township Curbside Leaf Pick-up

Dec. 6th – Township Curbside Leaf Pick-up

Next Meeting to be held **Tuesday**, November 16, 2021

Motion to Adjourn at 10:40pm was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all were in favor.