

Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2021

Call to Order/Role Call – the meeting was called to order at 7:35pm and the following members were present: Katie Parrish, James Myers, Dana Flynn, 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 – James Chorun and Leslie Chorun-Reid, 149 Lake Drive, requested EC support to protect their trees on their property. While members expressed sympathy at the situation, this was deemed to be a neighbor dispute.

Review of August 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes – a motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- MRMC – Katie reported that there was no update since the last meeting
- Recreation – Committee members agreed to sponsor the next plastic bag challenge
- Open Space – Eric advised that he did not participate in the last meeting
- Council – Harvey reported that Alex Rubenstein was appointed to Open Space Committee

New Business:

- 2022 Meeting Schedule – members reviewed the proposed 2022 meeting dates. Meetings will continue to occur on the fourth Thursday of the month, with exceptions made for November and December months due to holidays. Motion to accept the schedule was made by Lisa, seconded by James and all members were in favor.
- Planning for October 2nd Invasive Species Event – The event will occur on Glenside Woods Trail. Participants will be instructed to park on Camelot and walk across street to trailhead. A Nixle notice, Township Journal article and email to volunteers will be issued. It was suggested to advertise in the calendar section of the Township Journal as well.
 - Event will run from 9-12
 - Lisa, Katie B. and Katie P. will be attending
 - Lisa will make and post signs and will pick up the Hold Harmless Agreements
 - Girl Scout Troop members will be participating

- 2022 Recycling Postcard – members recommended to focus on plastic recycling. They would like to highlight the specific numbers of plastics which can be recycled.

Old Business:

- Impervious Coverage Ordinance – this project is on hold currently due to volunteer time limitations
- Plastic Bag Challenge Update – We have over 490 lbs. of plastic, with less than 10 lbs. remaining to earn the TREX bench! Members were extremely pleased at the enthusiastic response from Rec Committee to start their own challenge. Donna will provide them with details. EC may be interested in doing another challenge next year when Rec Committee completes theirs.
- Council Request re-Run-Off Concerns – Harvey advised that several Council members might want to focus on town wide stormwater project next year. He asked if EC would like to be involved and to what extent. Harvey was reminded that EC’s focus on stormwater management is on reviewing individual Planning Board applications and providing specific comments. However, EC would support a town initiative to review Township wide drainage concerns. EC members brain stormed on ways they could help and this included possibly being able to assist with doing grant research, tapping into our existing network of specific experts, or participating as a liaison to a subcommittee that might be formed for this topic. However, members do not have the specific technical expertise on this topic. In addition, concern was expressed about our ability to take on more initiatives. Our group is extremely active sponsoring several events throughout the year along with monthly meetings and we have several vacant positions.

Lisa reminded Harvey that EC previously undertook a drainage related project. Working with our contact at Rutgers, a stormwater management plan was developed at the catch basin at CO Johnson Park. Members planted and maintained the specific plantings and shrubs. Unfortunately, the plants were stolen.

- Girl Scout Silver Award Update – the girls are doing very well and have completed trail walks on CO Johnson and Tamarack, with Mansfield Wood planned the end of September. They are learning a great deal about our trails, nature and history in the process. They participated in the spotted lanternfly webinar and are considering making lanternfly traps to donate to the town. The girls will be joining EC on the Oct. 2nd invasive species event.

Planning Board Applications

Center for Humanistic Change – Block 42, Lot 110 – 12 Route 206 -

[SP5-2021- 07-09-2021 Center for Humanistic Change](#)

Members reviewed the application and had the following comment: Please be mindful of any current or future work in the back of the property as it is deemed to be an open water protection area as per Highlands Act.

Training

- [NJ Forestry Association's Spotted Lanternfly Training](#) – Sept. 16 – Several members of the girl scout troop participated in this webinar
- [ANJEC Environmental Congress](#) – Oct. 19-22 – a motion to spend \$25 to register for these webinars was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor. Donna will contact members who were not at the meeting to determine if there is interest to do so

Membership

- New Member Recruitment Ideas – members brainstormed ideas to recruit members:
 - Include in Township Journal articles on EC events
 - Place an ad in Township Journal to specifically recruit members
 - Add to Nixle notices on EC events
 - Recruit at EC events
 - Recruit at a senior citizen club meeting
 - Recruit a student member, perhaps from Go Green Club

In addition, Donna sends “welcome to Byram materials” to new residents who call or come into Municipal Building and this includes a statement about volunteering. Volunteer openings are also posted on the Township website.

Budget - \$1889.50 remains

- Replacement of Tree by Municipal Building? Management approved the EC request to remove dying spruce tree at Municipal Building and replace it. Eric obtained quotes from Sunnyside and Cerbo's and awaiting a response from Nestor's. Eric will be asked to contact Sunnyside to obtain a quote for 7-8' evergreen tree as their quote was for an 8-10' tree. A motion was made to spend \$300 to replace the evergreen tree by James, seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor
- Re-useable Bags – we have about 100 bags in our supply. if we ordered the same bags, they are \$2.90 each, plus shipping which is dependent upon quantity ordered. Minimum quantity to order is 200. Total without shipping for 200 bags is \$580. The last order of 150 bags shipping was \$39. Approximate cost is \$620 for 200 bags. Motion was made by James, seconded by Lisa and all members were in favor to spend \$600 plus shipping costs to purchase 200 bags
- Tools for Trail Maintenance – Eric obtained a list of potential tools to consider from his contact at JORBA. This will be discussed at the October meeting
- Township Trails Map reprinting – management confirmed that maps are being reprinted so EC will not be involved with this
- Lisa asked if there are any books we might like to purchase for the EC library

Other

Oct. 2nd – EC Invasive Species Event

Oct. 2nd – Rec Outdoor Movie Night “Back to the Future” @ Tamarack Park

Oct. 9th – Byram Fest (rain date of Oct. 10th) @ CO Johnson Park

Oct. 16th – Hudson Farms Charity Hike
Oct. 23rd – SCMUA E-Waste Day
Nov. 6th – SCMUA Hazardous Waste Day
Nov. 8th – Township Leaf Curbside Pick-up

The topic of a Deer Management Plan was raised. Members were reminded that Mike Van Clef brought this up at a previous Invasive Species Event. Lisa will talk to Mike at the next Invasive Species Event and this will be added to our list of goals/topics for next year.

NJ Forestry Association will be contacted to try to get copies of the recent Spotted Lanternfly webinar material.

Next Meeting to be held October 28, 2021

Motion to Adjourn – a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm was made by Lisa, seconded by Dana and all members were in favor.