

BYRAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 21, 2015 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Present were John Boyer, Jim Reinhold, James Myers, Lisa Shimamoto, Katie Parish, and Donna Koenig

November Minutes were approved: motion by John, second by Jim, unanimous.

Correspondence and updates:

- Ongoing - Steep slope ordinance: Discussed as to whether to keep this on our agenda. Will bring a copy of the ordinance to the next meeting.
- Soil ordinance: Donna to bring copy of updated ordinance to January's meeting.
- Ongoing: Community Forestry Management Plan: Distributed copies of the 5 year (2015 – 2019) management plan, put together by Farr Forestry Services, LLC, so we keep up to date with programs and requirements that will maintain Byram's status with the DEP's State Forestry Services.
- Due to schedule conflicts, no takers on the program offered by Rutgers to become a certified Environmental Steward.

Business:

- Tilcon annual quarry licensing application: James reviewed the Tilcon license; concerns involving wetlands letter interpretation, stream encroachment – is it necessary to re-visit, re-enforce soil ordinance if planning to bring in fill in the future (hope I got this right James) – discuss details in January
- Update Help Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean! postcard: Cathy reviewing postcard. This postcard is mailed out to residents in July for Storm Water Mngt. points (needed for annual Storm Water Mngt Grant). Suggested we add comments from resident Rich Shernce regarding using licensed/insured landscapers, pesticide companies, and contractors in an effort to prevent illegal dumping and compensation claims.
- NNL Grant –Donna and Jim reviewed/visited Township properties for possible tree plantings. Will have Adolf look over Lisa's landscape plan for C.O. Johnson. Discussed working with Elite Automotive on a landscape design for the front of his property. Donna to meet with Joe/Adolf/Cory Stoner in January.
- Membership: John Boyer resigned, Katie Parish staying on as alternate. Looking to fill 2 open seats and 1 alternate, and elect a Chair. Donna to make flyer to be sent home with Lakes and Intermediate school kids, and place an ad in the Township Journal & New Jersey Herald.

Planning Board:

- Applications: reviewed Brain Church, block 317 Lot 20.01. Lot line adjustment, no comments.

Trails:

- On hold: Lackawanna Cutoff trail. EC decided to support the surrounding townships, but hold off on initiating trail construction for the proposed Cut Off Trail, as this trail does not fall within Byram Township boundaries.
- Blazes with QR code need to be added to trailhead sign posts – Jim/Donna considering taking on this task (spring?). Gave Jim print outs of locations of trailhead posts.

- 2 Trail head posts still need to be installed – Cat Swamp connector meets Highlands Trail and Glenside Woods off of Ranger Trail – Adolf will address in spring
- Scheduled for spring – Johnson Lake (bench near peninsula) and Brookwood trails to be maintained
- Possible 2016 ideas to acquaint residents with Township trails – organize weekend hikes, winter hikes (High Glen to Jeff Lake), moonlight hikes, check out geo-caching apps

Forestry:

- NNL Grant –Donna and Jim reviewed/visited Township properties for possible tree sites. Will have Adolf look over Lisa’s landscape plan for C.O. Johnson. Discussed working with Elite Automotive on a landscape design for the front of his property. Donna to meet with Joe/Adolf/Cory Stoner in January.
- Tree City USA signs: Two to be installed at town hall; discuss with Township Manager (Acorn St.?)
- Planting designs for 4 detention basins: Hold off till spring – maybe an Arbor Day or scout project

Expenditures and budget:

- Membership renewal for NY-NJ Trail Conference: motion by Michelle, 2nd by Lisa; unanimous; \$50
- Membership renewal for ANJEC - motion by Michelle, second by Lisa; unanimous; \$395
- Re-certify for Tree City USA - part of the annual work plan for Byram’s Comm. Forestry Mngt. \$15

Reports from committees:

- Musconetcong River: nothing to report
- Open Space Committee: nothing to report
- Council: Dave Gray

Adjourn 9:30