



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Reorganization and Regular Meeting Minutes January 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll

Present: Chair Doug Hankin, Dan Kurela, Rich Larsen, Maureen Bonner, Joanne Ward, Jess Howk, first alternate Diane Gonski

Absent: second alternate Helen Danitz

Reorganization

Dan Kurela made a motion to nominate Rich Larsen as Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Doug Hankin. All in favor.

A motion was made by Maureen Bonner to approve the monthly meeting schedule for 2020, seconded by Doug. All in favor. The Secretary will email the calendar.

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 26, 2019 were approved with minor correction by a motion by Rich Larsen, seconded by Joanne Ward. All in favor.

Communications

HAB Communications: Harmful algae bloom still persists at the lake as of January 3 testing. Cell count for microcystin is higher than it was in November. Commission discussed the combination of septic systems, fertilizer from properties and farms, excessive rain and stormwater, and geese. Concerns were raised over the health of groundwater. Research can be done to investigate septic licensing program and ordinance.

Old Business

TREX Plastic Challenge: Plastic for the third bench is continuing. This month 462.4 lbs. were dropped off to Target. Remaining plastic will be dropped off in the coming weeks.

Budget Request: The 2020 budget request has been submitted.

Harmful Algae Bloom at Mt. Lake: The Commission discussed priority projects to reduce nutrient pollution at the lake and within the watershed. The following proposed list will be typed up and presented at the Stakeholders meeting for 1/22: Nutrient load study, septic leachate study, septic and public education program, shared services leaf removal with Township, install native buffers on public shoreline, aerators on the swimming dock, install a pervious parking lot at the beach, and harvesting weeds within the lake to reduce internal nutrient load.

ANJEC Grant: Send leaflet to Dan and Maureen for review and edits.

Annual Report: Report for 2019 was reviewed. A motion was made by Dan to approve the annual report, seconded by Maureen. All in favor.

New Business

Township Newsletter: The secretary will email the commission for ideas for the newsletter blurb. The Commission will be able to add a half page for septic management, half a page for the environmental commission, and half a page for stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution.

Cabin Fever Workshop: Flyer for the workshop was reviewed Motion was made by Maureen to approve the flyer for public advertisement with edits. Motion seconded by Doug. All in favor. Shannon will connect with Dan regarding size of inserts for sandwich board holders to advertise workshop.

Commission Member Reports: Dan mentioned the seed order and diversity for future planting under the mulberry tree at Mountain Lake by the wildflower meadow. The commission needs to make a selection this month for purchase and seed stratification, so plants will be ready to go in this May. Dan will send the link for seed selection to the commission members and ask for suggestions- 3 different species with varying bloom times for dry/part-shade location. A motion was made by Rich to use up to \$20 to purchase seeds for spring planting. Motion seconded by Doug. All in favor.

Rich attended a workshop with the Raritan Watershed Association regarding harmful algae blooms and reported his findings to the commission.

The secretary will email the ANJEC septic publication to the Township Committee for review.

Expenditures: None
Adjournment: 8:57 pm
Approved 2.20.20