



## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Rescheduled Monthly Meeting Minutes May 28, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### Roll

Present: Vice Chair Rich Larsen, Dan Kurela, Maureen Bonner, Jess Howk, Larry Supp

Absent: Chair Doug Hankin, Joanne Ward, first alternate Diane Gonski

**Public Comment** One member of the public in attendance.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 20, 2020 were approved by a motion from Maureen Bonner, seconded by Dan Kurela. Larry Supp abstained. All others in favor.

#### Communications

##### Old Business

Harmful Algae Bloom at Mt. Lake: Discussion continued regarding persisting harmful algae bloom at Mountain Lake. Result sample results from NJDEP were still over 100,000 cells per liter, for both beach area and boat launch. Commission members discussed lack of water flow, excessive plant growth, and other options to reduce algae cell count and cyanobacteria bloom. In previous years, lake area would be treated already, aquatic plants would be raked out of area, and normally with a good ice layer on the lake and long ice period – plant growth would be more minimal at this point. Environmental Commission will send Township Committee a letter to request the swimming dock be removed in an effort to increase water circulation before resampling done. Shannon will draft and send to Twp. Committee for June meeting. A motion was made by Maureen to send a letter to the Twp. Committee to request swimming dock be removed and Recreation Commission look into an aerator for the boat dock. Motion seconded by Dan. All in favor.

ANJEC Grant: Shannon will reach out to ANJEC to inform them that our wildflower meadow dedication and weeding party will be postponed until next spring due to Covid-19. In the meantime, weeding does need to be done to maintain the area. Commission members will take turns donating time to pull weeds to ensure the right plants are filling in the area. Shannon will share the plant list with EC members for review and plant identification before weeding. The Commission also discussed the success of the wildflower garden created by seed. Lots of poppies, bachelor buttons and other wildflowers, as well as grass. Concerns discussed regarding grass taking over. Commission will work on a maintenance strategy to see continued success.

Cabin Fever Workshop: Event is postponed. Possible revisit for next year.

Septic Education Signs: Members discussed using the sandwich board signs to promote Facebook page, septic education, etc. Signs can be moved around throughout the Twp. for better coverage. Maureen will draft simple slogan signs to be printed and attached for the sandwich boards.

##### New Business

Tree Giveaway: Shannon will pick up the trees in Jackson from the state nursery. Rich will help store them for a week until the event. Commission members will host a drive-thru tree pickup event at the Municipal Building parking lot. Shannon will make some signs. Two tables will be needed, newspaper, bags for trees, and at least 3 volunteers to help. Shannon will help promote on Twp. sign and website. Jess will post on Facebook. Event will be held June 6, from 10 am – 12 pm.

Solitude Lake Contract for Beach: Commission reviewed and discussed contract. May treatment will be removed. A motion was made by Dan to recommend approval of contract, seconded by Rich. All in favor. The contract will be sent to the Twp. Committee for review and approval. Treatment will assist and treat symptoms, but will not address issue at the lake. Nutrient management and water quality studies will need to be a priority. Need contract for Aquatic Analysts for hydroraking this summer to move forward with nutrient reduction at the lake.

Environmental Facebook Page: Discussion took place regarding education to the community and how to share current events as far as the HAB, wildflower gardens, stormwater and septic education points.

**Commission Member Reports:** Commission members discussed the necessity of purchasing a Zoom license to continue to host public monthly meetings during the Covid-19 to ensure social distancing and following of guidelines. The Secretary has purchased a license at \$15 per month. Shannon will connect with Recreation Commission to see if there is interest in splitting the license cost for both groups to use the software for online meetings. Dan discussed the shade garden/continuation of the native seed area. He has extra black plastic that can be used to prep the area for a planting next year. More discussion to follow on this.

**Expenditures:** A motion was made by Rich to approve the expense and reimburse Ms. Schaaf. Motion seconded by Maureen. All in favor.

Adjournment: 8:45 pm  
Approved 6/18/20