

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was advertised on the Township Website as in-person at the Township municipal building and on LTEC's Facebook page.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Larry Supp, Vice-Chair Jarod Gajda (via phone), John Ward, and John DeHuff, Ammunje Nayak, and Regan Bottomley

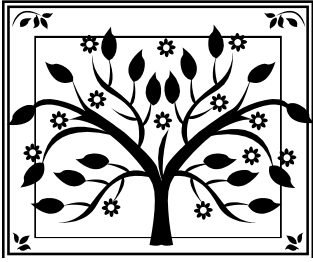
Absent: Doug Wright

Public Comment: Shannon Schaaf presented an environmental project proposal on behalf of her Girl Scout troop (further discussed under New Business). Don Lutz and Nancy O'Leary attended to learn more about the LTEC's role and asked questions regarding the Commission's relationship with the Township Committee and the Land Use Board.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by John Ward to approve the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes, seconded by Regan Bottomley. All in favor.

Communications:

- **Land Use Board Compliance Update** – Meetings have been cancelled and issues have not been addressed.
- **Dam Removal Project** –Chairman Supp and John DeHuff attended a webinar hosted by njdams.org in partnership with the Nature Conservancy covering dam removal processes and grant funding. A \$40,000 grant was available through the program; the Township engineer applied and was awarded \$30,000 for the project. The Commission requested to serve as a point of contact with the DEP and the engineer; the Township requested LTEC have no direct contact with DEP, and leave that to our town engineer. The Commission may communicate with the engineer directly. The original engineer's report by Boswell requires revision. Engineer Dave Clark will be attending a two-day training, and our John D. will also be there, after which John DeHuff and Chairman Supp will connect to determine next steps.

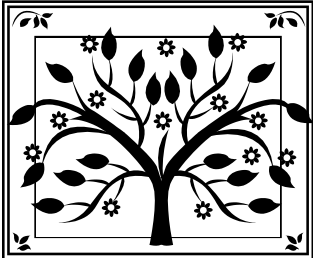


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- **Lake Monitoring/Water Testing** – Per the most recent DEP testing, toxin levels were elevated just above “2” and the cell count was moderate but well below 80,000. BGA meter readings remain fairly level since that testing date, but monitoring will continue. The Commission will look to deploy one of our 5 recently acquired toxin test strips in approximately one to two weeks as water temperatures begin to rise consistently.
- **April Seed Packet Giveaway Final Plans** – Approximately 100 wildflower packets (some pre-packaged and the rest re-packaged from bulk) are available for distribution. The Busy Peach newsletter has offered complimentary advertising. Setup is scheduled to begin Sat., April 11, at 9:30 a.m.
- **ANJEC Grant Application for water chestnut** – Chairman Supp drafted and submitted the grant proposal. A decision is expected by mid-May.

New Business

- **Shannon Schaaf Girl Scouts garden proposal in front of stone wall at beach-boat ramp entrance** – The LTEC has directed Shannon to get official approval from the Township Committee. The troop will first work on some Peaceful Garden maintenance.
- **ANEC Environmental Commission Training** – All members are encouraged to attend at least one ANJEC Environmental Commission training session during their tenure.
- **Earth Day Events** – It was noted that others have organized a stream cleanup at Black Brook near the Long Valley post office.
- **May 2nd and 23rd Bird Walk** – 8:00 a.m. at Pequest Fish Hatchery. John DeHuff made a motion to approve the production of two signs at a cost not to exceed \$75, seconded by John Ward. Motion carried. Carrie will design the graphic and forward to Chairman Supp for production through Hollie Studios. Jessica Griglack will be notified of the Commission’s attendance. The public will be directed to the LTEC Facebook page for any rain date updates.



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- Beach/Boat Launch Parking Lot Grant Project – Vice-Chair Gajda raised the concern of communicating to the Township, DPW supervisor, and all related parties the importance of incorporating a formal operations and maintenance plan into the project scope. As well as concerns regarding permeable pavement having a lower load-bearing capacity than conventional pavement.

Commission Member Reports:

Approval of Expenditures:

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ammunje Nayak to adjourn, seconded by John Ward. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: May 14, 2026