



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting Minutes June 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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, second alternate John DeMarco

Public Comment One member of the public in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 28, 2020 were approved by a motion from Jess Howk, seconded by Dan Kurela. All others in favor.

Communications

Notification regarding new septic system to be installed around the lake for Block 53, Lot 6. Discussion ensued regarding types of septic systems and designs that should be recommended for the lake area. Information will be forwarded to the Land Use Board for further discussion.

Old Business

Harmful Algae Bloom at Mt. Lake: the NJDEP resampled on June 15th and 16th. Results show that there is no harmful algae bloom present. Commission discussed the need of the Recreation Commission to investigate purchasing and installing an aerator on the boat launch dock for continued water circulation. The EC will continue to work with partners and enhance water monitoring to identify the nutrient load issue for the lake.

Septic Education Signs: Signs will be picked up next week.

Tree Giveaway: The giveaway was a great success! All 500 trees were given out and everyone seemed happy with the drive-thru tree event.

Solitude Lake Contract for Beach: contract has been signed and Solitude treated last week.

Garden Maintenance: Mr. Kurela ordered more wildflower seeds and clipped the grass. Weeds need to be pulled from the garden. Members discussed removing animal fence netting and replacing with a 3 strand fence. The strand fence will still keep out geese, but allow turtles to pass through. Mr. Kurela will go out this weekend to remove and replace with donated supplies.

New Business

Lake Monitoring: Discussed nitrate testing kits and strips to assist in identifying nutrient loads in lake. The Mt. Lake Community Association has an existing water monitoring program where volunteers visit the lake monthly to test for temperature at two depths, pH, clarity (secchi disk), and visual concerns. Discussed importance of seasonal testing of inlets. Ms. Bonner recommended a formal letter requesting Twp. support in seeking grant money for water testing and studies to be performed.

Weed Harvesting at Mountain Lake: Contract is still needed to send to contractor. It is waiting for the Mayor to sign.

ANJEC Harmful Algae Bloom Workshop: Great information made available to all who attended. Several EC members attended online workshop. Discussed retrofitting stormwater drains with filters, reaching out to Highlands for support, further investigation of previous studies and making them available digitally.

Liberty Twp. Stormwater Management Plan: Digital version shared with commission members. Discussion to continue. EC will request a log of maintenance for the grit vortex separator at Mountain Lake for further information.

Commission Member Reports: Commission members discussed hosting July meeting outdoors at the Pavilion at Mountain Lake. Ms. Bonner made a motion to move the meeting location, seconded by Mr. Supp. All in favor. The EC also discussed continuing the Zoom license to enhance public participation.

Expenditures: A motion was made by Rich to approve reimbursement to Mr. Kurela for the seed cost for the wildflower meadow. Motion seconded by Maureen. Mr. Kurela abstained. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Supp to pay for another month of Zoom for the EC. Motion seconded by Mr. Larsen. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 8:37 pm
Approved 7/16/20