



LIBERTY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
February 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was advertised on the Township Website Blog as in-person at the Township municipal building and on LTEC's Facebook page.

Roll Call: Present: Chair Larry Supp, Vice-Chair Doug Hankin, Sarah Longo, Rich Larsen, Diane Gonski, and Jarod Gajda
Absent: Doug Wright and Martine Kieffer

Public Comment: None

Approval of minutes:

- January 20, 2022 Minutes – Motion was made by Rich Larsen to approve the minutes, seconded by Larry Supp. Jarod Gajda abstained and all others in favor.

Communications: None

Old Business:

- **Peaceful garden bird houses and seeding** – Rich learned that blue birds and barn swallows most often visit the garden. Pricing for bird houses is estimated at \$25 - \$30 each. Costs for hardware to install birdhouses is expected to be minimal. Larry Supp made a motion to authorize up to \$100 for two bird houses and hardware to be purchased from the LTEC budget if remaining funds from the ANJEC grant cannot be used. Motion seconded by Doug Hankin, all in favor. Re-seeding is put on hold until it can be determined if it will be needed for the season.
- **Township approval of "partnership" with Princeton Hydro (PH) to apply for 319(h) funding for a Mountain Lake watershed study** – Princeton Hydro will be completing grant application on behalf of the town in exchange for the contract to continue services. Those services will include lake monitoring at depth and surface, monitoring of brooks, and nutrient balance. Testing is expected to be once per month.

New Business

- **Tree (arborist) Workshop** – Planning is underway for an arborist to offer a free workshop to residents. Topics will include transplanting, tree care, and identifying disease. The plan is for a 30-minute talk followed by a Q & A and interactive outdoor experience. Will be requesting use of the Municipal Building for Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 10am – 12pm.

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- **Free Tree Giveaway (New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign for 2022)** – Date for the giveaway is set for Saturday, April 23, 2022. To be held at the Lake/Beach Pavilion. Jennifer Breslin (Deputy Clerk) will also be present and distributing clean-up vouchers. A request for 650 trees has been made. Preliminary discussions are to limit pre-orders to 400, with a maximum of 3 species and total of 8 trees per household. A shareable Google spreadsheet will be utilized to keep track of pre-orders. A link to the request form for pre-orders will be placed on the LTEC/Township website, and flyers will be posted.
- **ANJEC request to adopt model resolution to protect Municipal Stormwater Rights** – Diane Gonski made a motion to adopt a resolution as proposed by ANJEC relating to potential changes in municipal stormwater rights, with an amendment to take out “flooding” and replace with “erosion”. Doug Hankin seconded, all in favor.
- **Approval of Annual Report** – A motion was made by Doug Hankin to approve the 2021 Annual Report, seconded by Rich Larsen. All in favor.
- **Green Infrastructure/Rain Garden/Perious Paving Project** – The Mountain Lake Community Association is looking to apply for The Conservation Fund Grant using plans that were drawn up by someone from Rutgers a few years ago for the LTEC. The deadline to apply for the grant is 3/31/22. This is a project that would be sponsored by the Mountain Lake Community Association and the LTEC would co-sponsor. The representative from Rutgers has advised that if we want to build the rain garden, he can get us \$5,000 toward that. Discussions with the Mountain Lake Community Association will continue.
- **Solitude Herbicide Contract** – Larry has made several attempts to communicate with Solitude to obtain a contract for this year, with no response. The contract has come in late from Solitude the last two years, and with the lack of response, we will be inquiring with other companies for herbicide treatment.

Commission Member Reports

Approval of Expenditures

Commissioner and Public Comments

Adjournment: A motion was made by Larry Supp to adjourn at 8:59 PM, seconded by Doug Hankin.

NEXT MEETING March 17, 2022