LAKE RESTORATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES – MARCH 21, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE: * Denotes regular member.
Edwin Runyon* (Chair) Excused  Daniel Brescia*  Mary Ann Cernak* (Excused)
Richard Kleeman*  Eugene Libertucci  Elizabeth Naskiewicz*
              Kathy Novak  Don Smith* (Excused)
Jerry Barron – Liaison to Env. Commission

Please note, Mary Ann Cernak participated from out of state by phone as a non-voting member. Ed Runyon sent report of information that he was in possession of for the benefit of the Committee, which was relayed by the Secretary.
In Ed Runyon’s absence, the meeting was Chaired by Dan Brescia.

Hearing & Concerns of Guests in Attendance:
No guests were present at this meeting. No representative from the Township was present.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Open Space Natural Areas (Bear Swamp BSNA & Big Woods BWNA)
   a. Warm weather grasses in fields (BSNA)
      As reported by Ed Runyon; mowing of fields was in budget but, according to the Community Development Director, the quote Ed obtained was too high. Grass had not been mowed for some time; it was triple in height, therefore more costly to cut. Committee questioned what happened to funds allotted for mowing.
   b. Maintenance of BSNA entrance area between road and pond on Maxim Rd.
      No word other than dam is being replaced.
   c. Unauthorized vehicle encroachment in BSNA – Not Discussed
   d. Problems of boundaries needing to be addressed.
      Discussion took place concerning problem incurred by resident adjoining tent camp when alerting HPD of his concerns regarding the camp. He was told that he must present proof of lot line boundaries or there could be no involvement by them.
   e. BSNA tent camp
      Information was relayed to the Committee by Kathi Novak and Jerry Barron, who both had attended the Council meeting the prior Tues. night, that all residents of the BSNA tent camp were removed from the woods. This was one of the items on our letter to Council, requesting action, which to date has not been acknowledged. This Committee questions extent of the cleanup i.e. garbage, liquor bottles, propane, etc.
   f. Correction of omission and errors, by Planning Board, of most BSNA large lots in the 2017 update of the Recreational & Open Space Element of the Master Plan. No response from Community Development Director or Planning Board to date.
   g. Forestry & Woodlot Management Program Status
      No progress to our knowledge since estimate was given to Community Development Director. Was in budget to be done last year. Committee questioned what happened to the money. This topic was listed in letter to Council. No response to date.
   h. Status of Monmouth County Open Space Grant application for Soldiers Park.
      No information on status to date.

2) Deer Survey (BSNA & BWNA)
   a. Thermal imaging & spotlight survey.
      A motion was made and approved to remove this topic from agenda.
   b. Deer kill reports
      Will not be receiving from Jody until end of March or April. Dona Messer will get local information from the HPD.
3) Scout Projects
   a. Eagle Scout Projects
       Gene Libertucci will attend the March 23rd Awards Ceremony for Tim Konopka’s Eagle Scout project of landscaping, bench and fencing around the port a john on the north bank of Echo Lake to represent this Committee. It has been reported that the project has already sustained damage to its just completed fencing.

4) Echo Lake
   a. Repair list update - No staining of the building to date.
   b. Lake levels
       According to Ed, levels should be up by around the 15th of March. He has not seen any DEP permits.
   c. Brick Utilities lake sample reports
       Elizabeth explained to Committee that Brick had requested Howell allow them to take periodic samples of Howell lakes. They were given okay but Howell would and always did receive a copy of the reports as a condition of them coming on Township property. This is no longer occurring and is one of the unanswered questions on our list to Council.
   d. Parking lot overcrowding from cars left for bike excursions.
       Committee voted not to pursue this.

5) Status of lake dredging
   This Committee is not aware of any plans to dredge Lake Louise. We have been advised to put our purchase request of purchasing adjoining land to Lake Louise for open space on hold.

6) Security & uses for open space & Natural Areas
   No word to date on Council moving ahead on resolution to create ordinance.

7) Report of Green Team on subjects relating to this Committee
   Jerry Barron reported on that the Green Team is looking to ban plastics. Also discussed their involvement with the Howell Community Garden.

8) 2019 Budget request/Operating & Capital Expenditures
   Information sent to Committee by Ed Runyon indicates we again requested money to mow fields in BSNA, proceed with planned Woodland Management work and allot funds for the fishing contest stocking.

9) Non-Profit Open Space Group
   Mary Ann Cernak had sent written report to inform Committee that most of her efforts have been spent completing grants related to the Howell Community Garden and developing a proposal for an environmentally related Twp. Commission/Committee Stewardship program to be piloted with two or more Middle School science Teachers.
   This is intended to be an important step in the process of establishing the “Not for Profit-Stewards and Friends of Howell Township Open Spaces organization.

10) Status of $750,000 Green Acres Grant from Pierce Farm
    No information.

New Business: None

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.
Next meeting will be July 18, 2019 at 10 am at Alfred C Sauer Park at Echo Lake.