IN ATTENDANCEE: * Denotes regular member:
Edwin Runyon* Chair Daniel Brescia* Mary Ann Cernak*
Richard Kleeman* Dona Messer* Elizabeth Naskiewicz*
Don Smith* (Excused) Kathy Novak Eugene Libertucci
Jerry Barron (Liaison to Environmental Commission)
Guests: Paul Rinear (Chairman of Aberdeen Environmental Board)
Jeff Bassett (Owner of Rt. 9 Howell Chic-fil-A)

Minutes of Meeting of March 21, 2019 were read approved as amended.

Hearing & Concerns of Guests in Attendance:
Paul Rinear, Aberdeen Environmental Board Chairman, attended our meeting in the hopes of obtaining information on the one million square foot warehouse proposed for Randolph and Oak Glen Rds. His concern was the cutting down of 66,000 trees and waiver request not to replant. After discussion on that subject, as well as over development overall, he was given information on taking his concerns to the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board, under whose ability to decide this would fall.

Jeff Bassett, owner of Chic-fil-A and recent purchaser of a home on Lake Louise, was concerned about what could be done to improve the lake. He expressed his civic mindedness and his desire to become involved with and work together with Howell Township.

OLD BUSINESS:
1) Pending answers from Council on our inquiry letter of February 8, 2019
   Nothing to report. Letter has not been acknowledged, to date by Council.
2) Open Space Natural Areas (Bear Swamp BSNA & Big Woods BWNA)
   a. Warm weather grasses in fields – Nothing to report
   b. Maintenance of area between Maxim Rd. and Bear Swamp Pond
      Starting to look like clean up has begun.
   c. Problems with boundaries needing to be addressed.
      No progress possible until Council gets involved.
   d. Bear Swamp unsanctioned tent camp clean up.
      Although tents have been removed, there is still garbage such as batteries, alcohol bottles, etc. strewn all around the area. It appears garbage was buried, including batteries. Railroad spikes used for hanging items remain in trees. Our Committee has documentation of these conditions with photos taken by Dona Messer.
   e. Correction of omission and errors on BSNA lots in Master Plan update.
      No reply to our correspondence regarding this indicating refusal to accept this Committee’s expertise on this subject.
      No information given us from Township to report.
   g. Information on Township’s plans for use of Monmouth County Open Space Grant in Soldier Memorial section of BSNA.
      No knowledge given to us on opening up sewer line, impervious surface increase, existence of a new LOI or Environmental Impact Statement done or in progress.
3) Deer Survey (BSNA & BWNA)
   a. Thermal imaging and spotlight survey.
      While the Committee voted to eliminate this topic from agenda at March meeting, a discussion to put it back on ensued. Therefore, Dona Messer motioned it be reintroduced to the agenda, seconded by Kathy Novak and it was approved.
b. Deer kill reports
   Ed informed us the numbers from Township Animal Control on pick-ups was 192 on
   Township roads, costing the Township $6,532.50. Pick-up on County and State roads
   would be additional to these figures. Jody Powers will be getting us the State figures.
   Dona Messer will do a map on where all deer were killed.

4) Scout Projects
   Gene Libertucci attended Tim Konopka’s Eagle Scout Award Ceremony on behalf of the
   Committee. Discussed was the recent damage to the fencing around the handicapped
   port a john; part of his project to beautify the area with stockade fencing, landscaping
   and a bench.
   There are no Eagle projects scheduled. Paul Novello has requested a clean up of the
   display at the vacant Municipal Building on Preventorium, which was a prior Eagle Scout
   Project, be freshened up. This will probably should be a Troop type project.

4) Echo Lake
   a. Repair list update. No information
   b. Damage to park.
      On May 2nd, Kathy Novak reported spray painting on the north bank of lake fencing to
      HPD. Also, the damage to the gazebo in need of repair was discussed as well as it
      needing a cleanup from the afternoon ceremonies held there.
   c. Ed Runyon reported lake levels are up as they should be.
   d. He also reported; still no word on why we no longer get Brick Utilities lake samplings
      which was a term agreed to by them.

5) Status of lake dredging.
   Ed advised the Committee that, according to James Herrman, no lakes are to be dredged
   in the future.

6) Security & Uses for Open Space & Natural Areas
   "Status of Council action on Rules & Regs appears to be dropped after Resolution
   created was passed almost 2 years ago.

7) Report on Green Team
   Mary Ann Cernak reported that in conjunction with the Green Team, the 8th grade
   middle school’s gifted and talented classes did videos on watersheds, in their area, and
   how to remediate problems in them. One honorable mention was received in the
   National Finals. Jerry Barron reported the Environmental Commission did not receive a
   grant for a new NRI. Farmers Market will start at Investors Bank parking lot 1st Sunday
   in June. They will be sponsoring the event.

8) 2019 Budget Request & Capital Expenditures
   Same requests as last year. Musky Trout Hatcheries invoice for stocking Echo Lake for
   Baxter Fishing Derby this year is $3,360.00.

9) Non Profit Open Space Group
   Mary Ann Cernak reported most of her time away was writing grants to ANJEC for the
   expansion of the Howell Community Gardens. She has been involved with the funding of
   the school tower gardens and other projects, such as the Ramtown students project to
   photograph and clean up a tributary to the south branch of the Metedeconk.

10. Status of purchases from the $750,000 Pierce Farm Green Acres grant.
    No information other than Elizabeth Naskiewicz reported, according to the property
    owners, the 4 acre addition to Bear Swamp Pond and adjoining land was moving
    ahead.

NEW BUSINESS:
  1) Progress report on Bear Swamp Dam
     Ed has no information on when it will be open.
2) **Tree Farm Day in Vineland**
   Ed brought up the upcoming event, which he thought would be relevant to us since it concerns topics such as woodland remediation, etc. He will inform us of the date.

3) **Restocking of Bear Swamp Pond**
   Elizabeth questioned if there was any information on replacing the fish taken out for the dam repair since it was a favorite fishing spot to take young kids to land a few catfish, making their day. Ed has no information.

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 at Alfred C. Sauer Park at Echo Lake.