Byram Township 2015 Annual Report

Compiled by Donna Koenig

BYRAM TOWNSHIP OFFICES

HOURS OF OPERATION

Township Offices:
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Construction Office:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Closed: Thursday

Zoning Office:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Finance/Tax Office:
Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Recycling Center:
Monday-Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p. m.

Township Website:
www.ByramTwp.org

General Office Numbers:
973-347-2500
973-347-0502

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Emergencies: Dial 911
Non-emergencies: 973-347-4008

CHIEF OF POLICE
Peter Zabita
973-347-2500 Ext. 141

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Joseph Sabatini
973-347-2500 Ext. 129

TOWNSHIP CLERK / DEPUTY MANAGER
Doris Flynn
973-347-2500 Ext. 127

DEPUTY CLERK / DEPUTY REGISTRAR
Cindy Church
973-347-2500 Ext. 161

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Adolf Steyh
973-347-2500 Ext. 137

ENVIORNMENTAL / RECYCLING
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Donna Koenig / Michelle McElroy
973-347-2500 x 138, x125

CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL
Tom Pinand
973-347-2500 Ext. 124

ZONING OFFICER
Tom Dixon
973-347-2500 x 131

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Cheryl White
973-347-2500 x 132

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR
Janet Meisner
973-347-2500 Ext. 160

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Ashleigh Frueholz
973-347-2500 Ext. 134

TAX ASSESSOR
Penny Holenstein
973-347-2500 Ext. 139

TAX COLLECTOR
Linda Roth
973-347-2500 x130

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Mayor James Oscovitch, David Gray, Nisha Kash, Scott Olson, & Marie Raffay

A Message from Township Manager Joseph Sabatini

It is my pleasure to present the Byram Township Annual Report for 2015. Under State Statute, the Manager provides a yearly report on the Township's activities for the benefit of the public and the Township Council.

Byram is served by full-time and part-time employees in eight departments and by numerous volunteers in the Byram Township Fire Department and Lakeland Emergency Squad and on our boards, commissions, and committees. The work of these volunteers, combined with the efforts of our elected leaders and staff, add to the quality of life in the Township, making our 'Township of Lakes' a wonderful place in which to live and work and to visit.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Highlands Grant for the Economic Sustainability Study, which included a town-wide survey and market study is nearly complete and implementation will begin in the spring.
- Updated Byram's Emergency Management Plan, submitted our Annex to the County and revitalized an Emergency Management Council.
- Extended shared service agreements with Netcong Borough for Construction Offices (managed at Byram) and Newton for Certified Tax Collector services.
- Participated in a reverse auction for electric energy services and secured a 24 month contract at a very competitive fixed rate.
- Completed repaving Amity Road Phase I.
- Completed the all purpose ball fields at Tamarack Park.
- Completed replacement of Road Department garage floor and shingling and roof repair of Salt Dome Building
- Installed Trail Signs.
- Renegotiated the Solid Waste and Recycling Contract to increase curb side recycling to 26 pickups per year.
- Hired Tom Dixon as Byram's new Zoning Officer.
- Staffing reorganization—appointed Cindy Church as Deputy Clerk and Doris Flynn as Deputy Manager.
- Promoted Peter Zabita provisionally to Chief of Police
- Authorized FKA Architects to do a municipal complex building assessment and master plan of our municipal complex.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- No Net Loss tree planting grant – Phase II
- Click It or Ticket Grant - Seat Belt Mobilization
- Amended Highlands Plan Conformance Grant – additional funding of $25,000
- Statewide Insurance Grant to install cameras and signage at Byram Recycling Center
- Hazard Mitigation Grant for a standby generator at our Radio Communications Tower

SERVICES

- Received $12,258.72 from ReCommunity Recycling for 681 tons of recyclables from Byram's curbside pickup and recycling center; at the same time, household solid waste pickup fell, reducing landfill fees for the Township. Byram also received a $18,160.20 State recycling grant and a $21,427.42 State Clean Communities grant.

Please take the time to review the information contained within this annual report. Public meetings are listed on the website calendar, and we encourage your participation throughout the year.

Byram's achievements are the result of a team effort that includes all of our residents, employees and volunteers.

Joseph Sabatini
Township Manager

HOW YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

"The Council-Manager form is the system of local government that combines the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a governing body, with the strong managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. The Council-Manager form establishes a representative system where all the power is concentrated in the elected council and where the council hires a professionally trained manager to oversee the delivery of public services."

– International City/County Management Association.

The distinctive feature of this form of government is the strict separation between legislative and administrative functions. The plan calls for the non-partisan, at-large election of four Township Council members and one Mayor. By law, the Mayor and the Township Council have the responsibility for all legislative matters, ranging from enactment of all ordinances and resolutions to general citizen representation. Seven separate advisory boards and committees assist policy formulation of the Council.

Administrative responsibilities of the Township are vested in the full time Township Manager. Charged with the day to day operation of the Township, the Manager directs all Township services and the enforcement of municipal ordinances. Appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Council, the Manager is a professionally trained individual whose basic responsibility is the efficient and economic operation of your local government.

The Township Clerk is secretary to the Township Council and is the Election Official of the Township. The Clerk records and prepares the minutes of each Township Council Meeting. The Clerk also processes, records and files resolutions and ordinances, arranges for legal advertising of official documents and issues various licenses and permits. The Township Clerk's election responsibilities include handling municipal elections, accepting petitions for vacancies in local elected offices, selecting polling areas and maintaining custody of election results.

How does a Council function?

The Mayor presides over Council meetings. The Township Council is similar to a corporate Board of Directors and is assisted by the Township Attorney who prepares ordinances and advises on legal issues; the Township Clerk who prepares resolutions and the Township Manager who functions much like the CEO of a corporation.

If I have an idea, how do I go about presenting it to the Council?

You are invited to speak at the "Public Comment" portion at the beginning and end of every meeting on any subject. Also, the public is invited to comment on ordinances at the public hearing prior to adoption. If you have new ideas for the Council to consider, you may want to speak with the Township Manager or department head ahead of time to obtain supporting data.

Is there a protocol for speaking at meetings?

Yes. The entire Council should be addressed through the chair (Mayor). Do not engage in dialogue with members without the chair's permission. Proper decorum should be observed. Succinct, constructive comments and a respectful tone are greatly appreciated and create an appropriate decision-making environment.

How do I know in advance what items will be on the agenda?

The agenda is published and posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall two days prior to a meeting. The agenda is also published on the Township's web page, www.byramtwp.org.

Can I review the minutes of the meeting?

All open session meetings are available for public inspection. You can read the minutes or review a complete recording of the meeting at the office of the Township Clerk. The minutes are also published on the Township's web page, www.byramtwp.org.

FINANCE/TAX DEPARTMENT

The Township of Byram emphasizes careful financial management and long range fiscal planning. The duties include billing and collection of taxes, collections of all Township revenues, investments, debt management, financial analysis, and control of the Township's **$10,868,325.56** 2015 budget. The department is also responsible for the financial activities of the sewer utility, with a budget of $ **315,230.00**. In addition, the assessor is responsible for the Township wide assessment.

Taxes are payable quarterly on the first day of February, May, August, and November, after which dates they are delinquent and subject to interest. There is no discount for prepayment. The grace period for payment is ten days. On any payments received after this time, interest will be retroactive to the first of the month. Delinquent payments will be charged interest at the rate of 8% per annum up to $1,500.00 and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of $1,500.00. A penalty of up to 6% will be charged on any delinquency in excess of $10,000.00 if not paid by the end of the fiscal year (December 31st), unless stated otherwise on the front of the bill. Any current year's taxes unpaid on December 31st will be subject to tax sale and lien in the subsequent year.

The Finance / Tax Department hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a lock box located in the front of the building for sewer and tax payments. Payments received after 3:30 p.m. will be posted on the next business day.

The Tax Department handles requests and information regarding the following tax relief programs:

- Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons Deduction
- Veterans Deduction
- Veterans Exemption

The State also offers the following programs:

- Property Tax Reimbursement (Freeze for Qualified Senior and Disabled Persons)
- Homestead Rebate

For more information about property tax relief programs, please refer to the Division of Taxation website: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/index.html

2015 Tax Information	
Number of Tax Parcels (excludes exempt)	3971
Total Assessed Valuation Taxable	$926,659,300

2015 Tax Dollar Breakdown		
County Purpose Tax	.496	14.9%
County Library Tax	.027	0.8%
County Health Tax	.011	0.3%
County Open Space Tax	.003	0.1%
Local School Tax	1.249	37.4%
Regional School Tax	.663	19.9%
Municipal Purpose Tax	.879	26.3%
Municipal Open Space Tax	.011	0.3%

Totals	$	%
County Total	.537	16.1%
School Total	1.912	57.3%
Municipal Total	.890	26.6%

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

In 2015 the Byram Parks and Recreation Department offered a variety of special events, programs, sports, and summer camp. The Recreation and Parks Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Municipal Building at 7:30 pm. The Committee, along with the Recreation Director and numerous volunteers, oversees all recreation activities for the Township. The Committee collaborates with several community groups such as the Byram Day Committee, Lenape Valley Municipal Alliance, Senior Citizens Club, and Southern Sussex Chamber of Commerce.

The Recreation Department reaches out to nearby towns and businesses to foster relationships that provide greater services to township residents. We have a 4 year old Tri-Town Recreation Committee consisting of members from Byram, Stanhope and Netcong's Recreation Committees. They collaborate planning for Camp Lenape and Tri-Town Dances. The Lenape Valley Municipal Alliance consists of members of both Byram and Stanhope and supports Movies in the Park, DARE, Peer to Peer and other programs in all the schools, Project Graduation, booths at Byram and Stanhope Days as well as other community events. Trips are planned by a group of recreation directors from Byram, Mt. Olive, Jefferson, Denville, Chester and Washington Township to offer a wider variety of trips than could otherwise be offered to any one town. Fitness classes are offered through RDA Fitness, dance classes through Gran Jete' Academie of Dance and karate classes through Isshinryu Traditional Karate Do providing short term, low cost learning experiences for Byram residents while offering potential customers a hands on experience at the local business.

Over 40 children enrolled in the Afternoon Advantage program fall 2015. Afternoon Advantage is offered to students in grades K – 8 and held in the Byram Schools directly after school. Classes vary in content, but are designed to promote the child's creativity while being exposed to a variety of learning experiences.

This past July Byram Recreation offered the third Kids Triathlon held in Lake Lackawanna. The event was well received by the Lack Lackawanna residents as well as by the young athletes from throughout the town who participated in swimming, biking and running. Ages 4 – 14 performed in age brackets with progressively longer distances for each age group. It was fun for everyone, even the amazing volunteers who turned out to make this event so successful. Look for a fourth year of the Kids' Triathlon this June.

Byram Day was held for the third year in a row at beautiful Waterloo Village. With an emphasis on nature and history, it took place all along Main Street in the historic section of the Village. The goal was to give Byram Day 2015 the atmosphere of a 19th century community.

Online registration for recreation programs was added in the fall of 2015. After going to the Township website, go to Community, and then select 'Recreation Programs' from the dropdown menu. Once there, click on the URL link for "Online Recreation Program Registration" to enter a whole new world of recreation! After creating an account and logging in, you will have the opportunity to register and pay for programs via ACH payments. Credit cards are not accepted at this time. You can also volunteer to help out at various events such as the Kids Triathlon, Visit with Santa, or dances.

Check the Township website and go to Online Registration for updated information about programs and special events. It is updated each season. Registration and medical forms for mail or walk-in registrations may be downloaded directly from the website under Community then Recreation Programs. Checks, money orders or cash are accepted in the office.
Field and program closure information may be obtained by calling 973-347-2500 then press 5 for recreation, then 2. (Note the change from last year.)

Activities by Age Group	Number of programs	Enrollment
Pre-School	13	80
Youth	89	705
Teen	3	150
Adult	9	120
Family Programs & Trips	17	122
Other Youth & Adult Sports	5	1000
Senior Citizens Club	1	80
Totals:	**141**	**2177**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

The Department of Public Works includes the following divisions: Roads, Sewers, Recycling, Buildings and Grounds, Park Maintenance, and Fleet Maintenance. This department employs 11 full-time employees including a superintendent. The total annual operating budget for the department is approximately $1.3 million.

The DPW maintains approximately 80 miles of roadway, 6 sewer-pumping stations and about two miles of sewer mains. Collection of recyclables leaves and brush at the Township Recycling Center is the responsibility of the DPW, as well as snow and ice control on Township roads, maintenance of storm drains and basins, traffic sign installation and repair, and coordination of the annual roadway resurfacing program.

Buildings and Grounds oversees and maintains eight Township buildings, including the Municipal Complex, the Old School House, and the C.O. Johnson Field house, and the Lee Hill Emergency Services Building.

Park Maintenance is responsible for the care of C.O. Johnson Park and its fields, Riverside Park, East Brookwood Park, Neil Gylling Park, Mohawk View Park, Tamarack Park, and all grass areas on the local school athletic fields. An average of 42 acres is cut twice a week depending on the weather. This division has one full-time employee.

Fleet Maintenance is provided by one mechanic and, when needed, a second DPW employee. The Fleet Maintenance Mechanic is responsible for about 10 police vehicles, 10 small to large DPW trucks, one road sweeper, a backhoe, two loaders, four trailers and a large assortment of power/mechanical tools.

Major Operations

Hours	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Road Repair	878	820	1186	874	627	804	743	724	918	718	194	694	9180
Parks Maintenance	16	8	4	354	369	532	616	506	357	448	242	80	3532
Buildings and Grounds	240	46	158	126	194	187	118	114	107	192	348	182	2012
Storm Overtime	395	767	383.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38.5	1584
Sewer	62	42	44	42	39	50	35	32	58	40	32	38	514

Vehicle Repair

Hours	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Police	32	8	20	20	60	16	13	48	12	14	16	48	307
Fire	0	12	4	24	13	12	0	8	4	0	2	16	95
Public Works	272	296	318	144	169	132	160	68	132	136	143	196	2166
Parks Equipment	0	0	2	16	15	12	12	40	12	8	16	34	167

Materials Collected/Used /Delivered

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Asphalt Material Placed - Tons	0	0	0	O	0	0	8.11	68.1	0	0	0	15.96	92.17
Brush - Tons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.39	0	3.39
Leaves Collected - Tons	0	0	0	23.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	36.89	8.56	69.05
Salt Used - Tons	523	710	490	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	1783
Sand Used - Tons	690	1200	585	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	2505

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Byram Township Police Department consists of fourteen sworn officers and two part time records clerks. The Department has always been committed to delivering professional police services to its residents. The Byram Township Police Department had several changes during 2015.

- Police Chief Raymond F. Rafferty retired from the Department on December 31st, 2015 after 27 years of service.
- The Department received a $4,000.00 grant and participated in the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety's "Click it or ticket Mobilization" program along with many other police departments throughout the State and Nation. Byram Police Officers issued 73 safety belt summonses during a two week period in May and June 2015 which resulted in increased safety belt usage on Township roads.
- The Department was awarded $1,678 for the replacement of Body Armor by New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice.
- The Department completed its twenty-fifth year instructing an anti-drug program in the fifth grade classes at the Intermediate School utilizing the Too Good for Drugs program created by the Mendez foundation as a modern replacement for the D.A.R.E. program The Too Good graduation ceremony and picnic were held in June, 2015.

In 2015 Byram Township Police Officers averaged five days of in-service training and traveled over 115,000 miles during their patrols. The department will continue to serve the citizens of the township to the best of its ability. Additional information regarding the department may be found on the internet at www.byrampd.org. Information is also regularly posted on the Department's Facebook page located at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Byram-Township-Police-Department/196576757045673

	2014	2015	Difference
Burglaries	6	9	3
Theft	26	25	-1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	-1
Aggravated Assault	0	1	1
Simple Assault	13	8	-5
Arson	0	1	1
Fraud	46	37	-9
Criminal Mischief	40	39	-1
Weapons	0	1	1
Fireworks	14	10	-4
Narcotic Offences	20	19	-1
Alarms	198	249	51
Disorderly Conducts	41	21	-20
Suspicious Vehicle / Persons	253	293	40
Motor Vehicle Accidents	215	212	-3
Motor Vehicle Stops	3065	2228	-837
Medical Assists	326	301	-25
Miscellaneous (other calls)	2832	4206	1374
Total Incidents Handled	**7096**	**7660**	564

	2014	2015	Difference
Adults Arrested	100	81	-19
Juveniles Arrested	17	13	-4

	2014	2015	Difference
Property Value Reported Stolen	$130,442	$29126	$ 101,316
Property Value Recovered	$11,367	$1,829	$9538

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The State of New Jersey mandates a wide range of environmental and personal health services. To meet these standards Byram Township contracts with the Sussex County Division of Health to provide many of these services. There is one full- time person who is available at the municipal building to assist residents with public health concerns, a part-time pound keeper, a part-time Animal Control Officer, a Registrar of Vital Statistics, and a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Environmental health activities include inspections of food establishments, lakes, beaches and campgrounds, monitoring of potable water supplies and septic systems. Three of the Township's major lakeside communities (Lake Mohawk, Cranberry Lake and Lake Lackawanna) are regulated under Septic Management.

Animal control activities include an annual free rabies clinic in April, dog licensing, and the operation of the local pound. The Township Health Department enjoys a unique relationship with BARKS (Byram Animal Rescue Kindness Squad), which assists the Township with animal rescue.

Solid waste activities include mandatory recycling through curbside pick-up every other Friday, and weekly garbage pick-up. Weekly pick-up is limited to two 45 gallon containers and one large household item.

Personal health services are handled by the Sussex County Health Department, Division of Public Health Nursing. These services include adult screenings for blood pressure, blood chemistry, skin cancer, male and female cancers, well-child clinics, flu immunizations, health risk appraisals, educational programs, and health counseling. Information about these programs is available in the local media, at them municipal building and by calling the Public Health Nurse at 973-948-5239 x. 3126.

The Township Board of Health meets on the fourth Tuesday of alternating months and handles public health issues such as sponsoring health clinics offered by the Sussex County Division of Health (flu clinic, pneumonia, SMAblood work), hearing resident requests for waivers from septic and well Regulations, managing the annual rabies clinic and other issues related to animals, water quality and septic management.

Vital Statistics	2012	2013	2014	2015
Marriage License	27	27	40	35
Civil Unions	1	1	0	0
Birth Records	59	43	45	30
Death Records	33	28	33	36

Animal Control	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rabies Vaccinations	214	250	250	283
Dog Licenses	1301	788	725	682
Shelter Admissions	50	95	101	140
Adopted Animals	59	73	47	99
Returned to Owner	22	17	13	12

Residential Trash / Recycling	2012	2013	2014	2015
Annual Garbage*	3006.65	2871.91	2825.15	2819.72
Mixed Paper Recycling*	227.13	23.93	-	-
Co-mingled Recycling*	151.23	14.42	-	-
Metal Recycling*	26.02	52.13	43.05	47.58
Tire Recycling*	7.91	2.60	2.79	2.35
Single Stream*	499.94	828.31	850.12	764.02
Vegetative	91 cu.yds	90 cu.yds	83 cu. yds	118 cu. yds.

*** in tons**

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Planning and Development provides for the administration of the Township's Land Use Board and the enforcement of zoning, construction, health, and environmental codes.

Construction Department

The Construction Department reviews construction plans, issues construction permits, and provides inspections to ensure work conforms to State of New Jersey Approved Building Codes. Staff consists of one part-time Construction Official, two part-time Sub-code Officials, and one part-time Technical Assistant. The Construction Department also serves Netcong Borough though a shared services agreement.

	2013	2014	2015
New Construction – Residential	2	4	9
New Construction- Commercial	0	0	5
Permits Issued	746	553	729
Certificates of Occupancy	7	8	11
Certificates of Approval	441	528	1080

Zoning Enforcement

The Township of Byram has adopted a zoning ordinance to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community. The zoning ordinance is established to regulate the nature and extent of land devoted to various uses by creating specific districts, regulating land use within those districts and limiting and restricting the use of buildings and structures to permitted uses. The zoning ordinance also regulates the height, bulk, orientation and other particulars of buildings and structures, lot coverage, lot sizes and dimensions. Byram's part-time Zoning Officer, who is certified as a Zoning Official by Rutgers University, reviews construction applications for conformity to Township Zoning Codes. In addition, he conducts routine inspections throughout the Township for violations of Zoning Codes and Property Maintenance Codes. Warning notices are sent for violations; a summons is then issued if the violation is not corrected. For questions, call 973-347-2500 x 131.

Zoning Permits	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Permits approved	8	3	3	6	2	2	5	6	15	6	5	2	63
Permits not required						1							1
Variances/Site Plan Waivers	2			1		1							4
Denials						4	1	4	2			2	13
Variance Compliance													0

Investigation of Violations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Verbal Warnings	1		1	2	2	3						2	9
Violations	3	2	2	4	9	2	5	10	3	1	2	7	50

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Signs removed from roadside				3	2								5

LAND USE BOARD

The Land Use Board is a joint planning and zoning board consisting of nine regular members including the mayor or appointee and a Council person. It also includes two alternate members from the community. The Land Use Board is appointed by the mayor and Council and hears all subdivision, site plan, and variance applications. It is also responsible for long-range planning through the Master Plan and Land Development Ordinance. The Land Use Board meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. The Board is served by two advisory boards, the Environmental Commission, and the Architectural Review Committee. Staff consists of a Planning Director, a position held by the Township Manager, and a part-time Board Secretary, who is certified by Rutgers.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (973) 347-2500 x. 132

Land Use Board Statistics			
	2013	**2014**	**2015**
Site Plan Applications:			
Approved	13	13	13
Denied	0	1	0
Subdivision Applications:			
Approved	2	1	0
Denied	0	0	0
Variance Applications:			
Approved	10	10	10
Denied	0	1	0

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Reviewed Planning Board applications from Byram Car Wash, Cartridge Actuated Devices, Jefferson Day Camp, Consolidated School Apartments, and a QuickChek gas station, and recommended changes to help recognize the ideals of the Township's Master Plan, Smart Growth Ordinance, and Design Guide, by improving landscaping, avoiding excessive signage and lighting, moving away from highway commercial design and toward calmer, human-scaled site design.
- Continued its research and discussion on planners, architects, municipalities, and developers who design and build people-oriented Village Centers, as called for in Byram's Master Plan, Smart Growth Ordinance, and Design Guide. The ARC continues to serve as a 'Smart Growth resource' for the Township, helping Byram to develop strategies for community and economic development.
- Received information from a Historic preservation workshop attended by ARC member Andrea Proctor, including integration with planning and zoning, NJ Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) implications, and available funding.
- Accepted an application to fill the open ARC Secretary (Township Employee) seat vacated as a result of a retirement, to keep the ARC at its full 8-member size.

2015 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Trailhead posts identifying different trail routes were installed at the start of 18 various trails and parks throughout the Township. The posts indicate length, type (hiking, jogging, biking) any connecting trails, level of difficulty, and blaze color. Blazes with QR code were purchased to affix to each post, which, when scanned, will upload the full Byram Township Trails Guide.
- EC member Jim Reinhold attended a March 28th Trail Maintenance course given by NY-NJ Trail Conference to better promote and coordinate community trail work days.
- EC members participated in the Spring Amphibian Rescue on Waterloo Rd. in coordination with the NJ Wildlife Conservancy.
- EC member James Myers applied for and received 100 trees from the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign, which were then distributed to Byram residents in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. The Willow Oak tree seedlings, together with planting suggestions and instructions, were given away on Saturday April 18th at the recycle center. Some of these seedlings were planted by the EC along Lubbers Run behind Neil Gylling field.
- NJ Department of Environmental Protection awarded a Certificate of Approval to Byram for the successful completion of a 5-year Community Forestry Management Plan, 2015-2019. The EC manages the annual work plans to meet requirements for this status.
- EC member Jim Reinhold became a Certified Chain Saw Operator. This certification will allow him to assist with minor tree/brush issues during trail maintenance days. The May 6th Chain Saw Safety Certification class was funded by the EC.
- The Sustainable Jersey (Conservation Easement) grant was completed. An educational brochure, *A Guide to Conservation Easements,* was created and mailed out to Byram residents. This brochure summarizes the accomplishments and future work needed on this project.
- EC members worked at clearing a trail at the Brookwood site in May, and posted white diamond blazes at Johnson Lake and Brookwood Park to better mark trails.
- To celebrate National Trails Day, June 6th, EC members Katie and Jim worked at Tamarack Park and the Salt Shakers Running Club partnered with the EC to do a trail clean up and maintenance at the Sussex Branch Trail.
- DPW assembled and installed benches and a picnic table in Brookwood Park along Lubbers Run, which were purchased using the Recreational Trails Grant money.
- EC purchased and planted 8 shrubs, 4 blueberry and 4 clethra, for Lubbers Run buffer at Neil Gylling Park.
- Byram Day: EC hosted a salamander presentation, fly fishing demos, and a 'Where in Waterloo' contest. Handed out the new recycling schedule postcard, as well as informational brochures on recycling and composting, our Trails Guide, private well testing, radon testing, conservation easements, and an amphibian rescue project with the NJ Wildlife Conservancy. Entrants in the 'Where In Waterloo' quiz were eligible to win a $70 Harvest Moon Festival gift certificate.
- Reviewed Planning Board applications and recommended changes with regards to the ideals of the Township Master Plan and to protect local natural resources.
- Tree City USA status awarded for Byram.
- Fielded representatives to the Musconetcong Watershed Association, Planning Board, Council, and Township Board of Health meetings.
- EC member James Myers participated in an inspection of the Tilcon quarry and submitted comments with regards to Tilcon's annual license renewal.
- Participated in the No Net Loss Grant application, awarded to Byram, to replace trees in the Township that were destroyed by storms, and also to beautify the town and improve the tree canopy in parks, detention basins, and open spaces. Phase 1 involves a re-forestation of the new Jones Lane recreation fields, and Phase II targets township owned properties.
- In August, the Township bid farewell to Margaret McGarrity and wished her all the best in her retirement. Margaret was a significant and fundamental member/secretary to the EC for over 27 years.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The Byram Township Municipal Court has entered into an agreement with Andover Township for a Joint Court. Effective January 1, 2015 all Byram Township court business will be handled by the Andover Township Joint Municipal Court which will be responsible for processing indictable offenses, scheduling court cases, processing warrants, entering of summonses, and collecting of fines. Their information is as follows:

Helga Walls, Court Administrator
Andover Joint Municipal Court
134 Andover Sparta Road
Newton NJ 07860
(973) 383-4280 X 4
http://www.andovertwp.org/departments/court/
M-F 8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

ANDOVER JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT – BYRAM STATISTICS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
DWI	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	9
TRAFFIC	57	91	157	175	269	71	91	81	46	44	40	46	1188
PARKING	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	2	0	1	13
DP/PDP	3	4	4	9	8	10	2	5	7	14	4	5	75
OTHERS	0	4	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	1	2	7	22
INDICTABLE	1	3	2	1	5	3	3	5	3	5	4	1	36

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Court revenue	6662.07	4697.36	4579.35	9825.82	8157.20	8074.37	8795.44	5741.86	5498.62	4950.6	3440.76	2966.44	73389.89

LAKELAND EMERGENCY SQUAD

Lakeland Emergency Squad has been proudly serving Andover Borough, Andover Township, and Byram Township for the past 75 years. Our coverage area is approximately 50 square miles of southern Sussex County, where over 15,000 people reside (about 10% of the County's population). We provide mutual aid to the surrounding towns including Newton, Stanhope, Netcong, Hopatcong, Frankford, Budd Lake, Green, Branchville, Allamuchy, Franklin, Hampton, and Sparta.

Lakeland EMS responds to roughly 1,200 – 1,300 calls for assistance each year. These calls range from medical emergencies to motor vehicle collisions to stand-bys at local sporting events.

Our dedicated group of members consists of approximately 50 residents who serve in various capacities. All members are certified in CPR and the majority of our members are also certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Other members are a part of our Rescue Services Unit or serve as drivers. We have many positions available to meet your interest level. Please consider joining our team to help us continue our strong tradition of dedicated service.

Each year, the Lakeland Emergency Squad gives back to the local communities in other ways as well. We host the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wild West City, sponsor local scouting organizations, and provide scholarships for two graduating Eighth Graders from the Andover and Byram school districts who emanate an outstanding focus on volunteerism and community support.

If you or someone you know are a resident from Andover Borough, Andover Township, Byram Township, or the surrounding municipalities are interested in joining, please contact us at (973) 347-2123 or via our website at www.lakelandems.org. All training is provided at no cost to you.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Byram Township Fire Department, established in 1948, provides fire suppression, heavy rescue, ice rescue and public education services to Township residents. Fire suppression is provided by 45 volunteer firefighters who are dedicated to serving the residents of the Township. The volunteer firefighters are on-call 24 hours a day and operate from three fire stations located throughout the Township.

- **Cranberry Lake building located on Route 206**
- **Lake Lackawanna building located on Lackawanna Drive**
- **Lee Hill emergency services building on Lee Hill Road**

The Fire Department administrative offices are in the Cranberry Lake Fire House, where the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief may be reached at 973-347-2662 or at www.byramfd.com.

The Fire Department Association owns and operates the Cranberry Lake and Lake Lackawanna buildings; the Lee Hill emergency services building owned by the Township. The associations are supported with funding from the Township for fire suppression, fire prevention, and public education efforts. The Township also provides the fire apparatus and related equipment. The association also relies upon various fundraisers to operate and maintain their buildings.

In 2015, the Byram Fire Department responded to 293 incidents.