

BLAIRSTOWN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2017

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 28, 2017, Roy's Hall, 7:00 pm

Sue Habermann called meeting to order 7:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes from the last meeting:

A motion to approve the 1/24/17 minutes made by Annette Sacks; seconded by Bob Law.

BEC Meeting Schedule

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

BEC members and Township residents are encouraged to attend Township meetings the second Wednesday of the month.

Blairstown Township Meeting Schedule

March 8

April 12

May 10

June 14

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE at **blairstownbec.com**

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cedar Lake Farm

The Cedar Lake Farm license agreement for Cedar Lake Farm with the NJ Park Service is in internal review. Attorney review to follow. The five-year license will allow the BEC to maintain, improve, enhance and preserve the 103-acre property with no use of buildings. The property can be used for educational, cultural and recreational purposes, and will provide access to residents and visitors for walking, hiking, equestrian, and other events. The BEC will be required to submit a five-year management plan, as well as an annual plan. The insurance and licensing costs will be privately funded.

Discussion on possible community events and programs to include cycling events (Cycle Cross and Fat Bike).

Welcome Blairstown border signage

The BEC will review border signage design, where the permit process stands with the Township and County, and get approval from appropriate town organizations before moving forward. The BEC will provide funding and the Township will install the signs.

Appalachian Trail Community

Blairstown is the first township in New Jersey to become an Appalachian Trail Community. There will be a dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 22, 11 am, Footbridge Park. Activities include shuttle service to Camp Mason and the AT; guided hikes to the fire tower and other AT points; Historical Preservation Society walking tours; children's events. Local businesses will set up tables on Main Street for a small fee. BEC will host a table.

Paint Main Street

Discussion on how the BEC can help residents and landowners paint their homes on Main Street. Possibilities include holding a raffle or providing a "scholarship" to people who need assistance. Committee formed; Historical Preservation Society will be contacted.

Economic Development

Continuing discussion on working with the Township Committee, businesses and other organizations to develop and execute a plan to bring economic development to Blairstown. Areas of concern include Warren County which no longer has a Chamber of Commerce; disconnect with townspeople supporting local businesses; and no one in the Township where people can go to concerning business issues or how to start a new business.

BEC will contact Warren County Economic Development Committee and look at other State Improvement District Groups. Survey will be conducted to determine what kind of businesses people want in town, etc. How can the Town provide support for entrepreneurs who want to start a business?

The NJ StateBook provides information concerning site selection and economic growth and development for communities in the State. It focuses more on cities; therefore, is not very helpful for small towns like Blairstown.

There being no new further reports or continuing/new business, a motion was made to adjourn 8:53 pm Rob Merrifield; seconded by Dave Bensen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18 - Comedy Night at Blair Academy - Fundraiser for Ridge and Valley Conservancy, Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts, Blair Academy.

<https://ridgeandvalleyconservancy.org/news-events/>

March 25 - 2017 Foodshed Alliance Gala Celebration of Local Food, Local Farms & Local Heroes, 6:00 pm, Blair Academy, <http://foodshedalliance.org/2017-gala/>

April 22 - Appalachian Trail Day and Designation Ceremony, 11am to 5pm. The event will begin with a designation ceremony at Blair Falls, formally naming Blairstown and the Greater Blairstown Area as an official Appalachian Trail Community (the first in the State of NJ).

The designation ceremony will be followed by a Street Fair. Street vendors will line the street selling their goods. On the lawn of 27 Main Street (former Vape Shop) there will be vendors from various county and state agencies, as well as a band. The Blairstown Museum's trolley will shuttle people to and from Catfish Fire Tower and Millbrook Village.

August 5 - Tour de Blirstown Cycling Event, sponsored by Foodshed Alliance

August 5 - Celebration of the anniversary of John I Blair's birthday at the Blirstown Museum