Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes October 17, 2016

Attending: Chair Rich Cotter
Jamie Kinsel, John Mallon, Ralph Rhodes

Township resident Debbi Appel attended the meeting. The Commission's Township Committee liaison, Diana Orban Brown, attended for the beginning of the meeting. Rich distributed the agenda and Jamie agreed to take the minutes. Minutes for the September 2016 meeting were accepted. These minutes are posted on the Township Hall bulletin board and Township website.

Treasurer's Report: Susan sent her report. Approximately $39 is left of the 2016 $500 budget after ANJEC dues, Chair's ANJEC 43rd Annual Congress attendance fee on September 30 and purchase of the new 4' by 2' banner. $530 is in a separate Trust Account (includes Somerset Hills Garden Club grants) and $16,000 is in a third account to be used by the EC for capital projects (5 year life). Diana noted the EC can expect $500 in the 2017 budget.

Open Space: The Commission discussed concerns about continued clearing at Mosle Preserve by a resident using heavy equipment. Mendham Township, Schiff and NJWSA co-own and co-manage the space which has documented steep slopes, freshwater wetlands, headwaters of the Raritan (Class 1) and conservation easement deed restrictions. Dave Read at the Township DPW confirmed the Tempe Wick fields will be brush hogged by month end. This obligation under the original NRCS grant was skipped in 2015 due to wet field conditions.

Raritan Headwaters Association: Teri sent her report on the Well Water Testing event – 48 kits were purchased October 15th at the Township Municipal Building. RHA collected the returned samples on October 17th and forwarded them on for lab testing. Sue took delivery of the new Commission banner she ordered at Staples in time for it to be displayed along with available Open Space brochures, handouts about the Emerald Ash Borer and signup sheets for Adopt a Byway. The Observer ran a very prominent article promoting the event. Rich also reported he attended a Rockaway river cleanup day on October 9th with Trout Unlimited.

Planning Board, Board of Adj & TRC: Jamie reported that the Planning Board meets this Wednesday. The Board of Adjustment application received for comment - 41 Corey Lane Block 146 Lot 19 – The Zammataro's have requested a use variance to construct a 2900 SF horse barn & paddock on their 10.2 acre lot where 13 acres is required for accessory structures – was reviewed with no comment to be submitted.

NJ Freshwater Wetland Protection Program: No notices.

Recycling: Rich continues to look into collecting bulky Polystyrene foam blocks, commonly used for the packaging of electronics, for recycling. One possibility is a joint event with the Borough's EC right after the Christmas holidays.

Somerset Hills Garden Club Grants: Ralph shared an email from Country Nursery with a bid of $5,320 for planting (10) 7-8' Norway Spruce and (1) 8-10' Dogwood in two triangular beds at the India Brook Park entrance (one year guarantee on trees). John Mallon will ask other local landscapers for bids.

Operation Take Back: The Commission was pleased to see the Mendham Twp. Police are participating on October 22 in this national initiative to provide a safe, convenient, and environmentally responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs.

Next meeting: November 21, 2016 7:30 PM