

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIORNMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES October 16th 2017

ATTENDING: Chair Richard Cotter

EC Members, Janet DeMeo, Ralph Rodes, John Mellon, Brian Boden and Richard Diegnan Township Committee, EC Liaison

EC Visitors: Erica Rossetti Raritan river headwaters Watershed Ambassador, Gabrielle Graham, Watershed Ambassador Great Swamp Watershed and our EC friend Debora Appel

Potential future EC members: Mary Calabro, Noreen Syed, & Pamela Kenworthy

Rich distributed the agenda agreed to take the minutes. Minutes from the EC's September 2017 meeting were accepted. These minutes are posted on the Townships Hall Bulletin Board and Township website.

Discussion of the Township EC /Schiff's stepping stone crossing on Patriots Path Connector Trail was discussed in terms of how to proceed. It was decided that trying to build a formal bridge over the river was out of the question, due to cost and the necessary requirements for such a project. As the previous approach was to establish a simple stepping-stone crossing made of concrete pedestal steps that had been anchored into the streambed was discussed. The previous stepping-stones apparently were pushed down river during a large storm perhaps Hurricane Sandy.

The EC investigated the site on October 15th and found the original stepping-stones still existed on site and down stream. This site review indicated they could be recovered and easily replaced in the streambed to reestablish the crossing by simply relocating them to their former placement. There was a concern expressed that perhaps this project might trigger involvement of state regulations. The committee agreed that we need to check this out. Plans were discussed having getting help from the Township DPW and the committee will follow up on this. Schiff has also agreed to partner with the EC to restore the stepping-stones crossing and provide manpower for this project.

EC Membership was next discussed in terms of the EC need to attract new members, as we lost two of our members over the summer due to their relocation. Luckily thanks to the EC advertizing this need, we had three individuals who have shown an interest in Joining the EC were in attendance at this meeting. The EC is following up with these potential members to assure their interest still exist after observing the EC at work.

Although the EC treasurer was absent from this meeting the budget was discussed; the EC has spent \$335 dollars of our current 2017 \$500 budget. It has been recommended that we combine the remaining with our garden club grants of \$600 to fund the Seeing Eye Entrance beatification project. John indicated he had talk to a

local landscaper to get an estimate on what this project will cost. As this project would also be a capital long-range project the EC Conservation fund could also assist with this project. We await final cost estimates.

The Pedestrian Easement project was discussed. As there appears to be over 20 such easements, an inventory of them is in order. Sue and John indicated they would investigate their current condition and report back to the EC.

Conservation Easements. Sue is following up with the Township to correct this issue. The EC has received a series of copies of deeds that will be followed up on when Sue is available

Open Space was discussed in terms of the Mosley preserve which now appears to be resolve for the moment. with no more unauthorized trail building. The Township DPW is maintaining trails. There apparently exists a 5-year plan for Mosely that should be followed.

A new liaison to the Planning Board from the EC was appointed to the planning board, Janet Demeo who is also is a member of the committee, which is revising the Township's Master Plan which is currently discussing the potential changes from 10 to 5 acres which was based on the availability of ground water to support further township development. Janet has also been approached to join the TRC committee going forward. Janet indicated the EC would be asked for input on the Pitney Farm variance request in the near future. We need to discuss the EC workload going forward at our next meeting, as we will shortly have new members and we should be distributing the workload.

A formal combined presentation on recycling by the EC and Township library will have to be re-scheduled due to a personal priority with Janet from the original date November 16th, 7 to 8PM. Stay Tuned!

Retained EC historical documents were discussed. Ralph volunteered to categorize the historical documents that he and Sarah Dean have maintained. The EC accepted his recommendation with the caveat that we need to do this rapidly as the EC has been discussing these documents for many months.

Freshwater Wetland Protection Program, variance

Eagle Scout Projects, the scout who was engaged in a Buttermilk Falls project has withdrawn his proposal at this time. Janet and Brian will contact both Boy and Girl Scout organization to alert them to our ability to support Silver, gold, and Eagle Scout projects. EC is open to any new projects that boy or Girl Scouts may propose.

Next Meeting: November 13th 2017 7:30 PM

Future 2017 EC Events

Styrofoam Recycling In December – Rich to follow up as December is fast approaching.

RHA State of the Watershed Conference Dec. 2nd