

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18TH 2017

ATTENDING: Chair Richard Cotter

Janet DeMeo, Ralph Rodes, John Mellon, Sue Schmerler & Brian Boden

Rich distributed the agenda agreed to take the minutes. Minutes from the EC's June 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.

It was decided that the EC would investigate if these stones do still exist down stream. Perhaps they could be recovered and then replaced in the streambed reestablish the crossing. It was decided the EC would meet in the next few weeks to explore the area in search of the former stepping-stones and their condition for simply relocating them to their former crossing. The Chair will set up the date for this investigation.

The EC Committee was told of the Townships Proclamation for our former EC member Janie Kinsel for her years of service to the Township. Jamie was contacted and has provided her updated contact information

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. Two positive ideas were floated; one was for the EC to follow up on a former interested individual Debbie Appel. Rich will follow up. The second idea was for Brian to place an add in the local paper seeking interested parties all agreed this was a positive way to seek new members.

Budget was discussed; the EC has spent \$335 dollars of our current 2017 \$500 budget. It was recommended that we combine the remaining with our garden club grants of \$600 to fund the Seeing Eye Entrance beautification project. John indicated he would 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.

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 the Township has fallen behind in Notifying New homeowner's that their property contained a Conservation Easement. Sue is following up with the Township to correct this issue.

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. John to speak with DPW about allowing re-growth of damaged areas. 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.

A report was given to the EC by members who visited to the township Recycler "ReCommunity Recycling" This month. A formal combined presentation on recycling by the EC and Township library will be presented at the Library November 16th, 7 to 8PM.

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 requests for septic failure at 13-carol drive was discussed.

Eagle Scout Projects. The scout who was engaged in a Buttermilk Falls project has withdrawn his proposal at this time EC is open to any new projects that boy or girl scouts may propose.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2017 7:30 PM

Future 2017 EC Events

Styrofoam Recycling In December

India Park Tree Planting

