Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes May 16, 2016

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

Rich distributed the agenda and Jamie agreed to take the minutes. Minutes for the April 2016 meeting were accepted. Township resident Debbi Appel attended the meeting.

Planning Board, Board of Adj & TRC: Jamie reported that the May Planning Board and TRC meetings were cancelled. No Board of Adjustment applications were received for comment.

NJ Freshwater Wetland Protection Program: Notice was received of Mendham Township's application for improvements to the Mendham East Sewer Treatment Facility.

Monitoring Conservation Easements: Susan has created a spreadsheet of 160 Twp. easements. The EC agreed the priority is to re-establish notification to new homeowners who purchase properties with easements on their property.

Raritan Headwaters Association: Rich noted there are training opportunities available to become a water quality monitor.

Mendham Twp. Green Team: Rich received a request from the Twp. Clerk for the EC to stand in as the now inactive Green Team. Susan, a former member of that Team, explained that this would really require a standing committee dedicated to this mission alone. She will talk to Mary Beth.

Mendham Twp. ERI: The Twp. Administrator received a request for amendment to the ERI from a resident at 13 Schoolhouse Lane. This property is included in the State's data cited in the ERI's section on contaminated sites in the Township. Jamie noted that the ERI is clear that this State data is taken at a point in time (April 2012) and is factually correct. In fact, a report taken from the DEP site remediation website on 5/16/16 still shows 13 Schoolhouse Lane as an active site with confirmed contamination. Any NFA documentation forwarded by the homeowner should be filed by the Administrator. The EC does not consider amendment to the ERI to be appropriate.

2015 Annual Report: Rich forwarded Ralph's report to the Twp. Clerk to copy the Twp. Committee.

May 7,2016 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign: Jamie, Rich, Susan, Teri & Debbi were on hand to give away free native bare root seedlings together with planting directions to the first fifty residents in this statewide effort to replant the trees lost in the storm events over the last several years. Trail maps and a Twp. Open Space brochure were available as well. All seedlings (Northern Red Oak, Red Maple and Red Cedar) were distributed within an hour and fifteen minutes. Mendham TV was on hand to video the event and the Observer posted a picture taken that day. Jamie filed the final report with NJ Forestry Services.

DPW Clearing: Rich continues to monitor the remediation of the clearing created by DPW error.

Trail Maps Inventory: ***Mendham Twp. Trails*** (published March 2001) – almost depleted. ***Dismal Harmony Natural Area*** (published 2008) – about 75 on hand. ***India Brook Parks*** (published 2008 to replace BF and IB Natural Areas map) – about 75 on hand.

E-Waste Recycling 2016: Rich continues to search for a way to hold a local collection event this year. He will reach out to Morris County to see if there is any possibility other than their already scheduled collections (June &September at W Hanover Ave & October in Chatham). The EC received a reply from NJ Senator Anthony Bucco assuring his support of the legislation to improve the current situation.

Monarchs & Milkweed: Brian's report held over to the next meeting.

Adopt a Byway: Ralph copied the EC on the current information given on the Twp. website. The link given should be replaced. Rich wondered if it was possible to be given an EC email address from the Twp. instead of using personal email for this purpose.

Morris County Trail Grants: Rich asked Ralph & John to review the information keeping in mind any improvement work needed our trails. The letter of intent deadline is at the end of July.

Mendham Twp. EC Table Banner: It would have been helpful to have an identifying banner at the 3Rivers Festival and the Tree Seedling Giveaway. Susan remembers having one in the past. Ralph will check with Sarah Dean.

Operation Take Back Day April 30th: Jamie was disappointed to learn that the Twp. police did not participate, as they have in the past. 1,365 pounds of unused medicines were collected and disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. The event occurs twice a year and John will reach out to Lieutenant Ross Johnson to encourage participation next time.

Next meeting: June 20, 2016