

Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes of June 18, 2018 Meeting

Attending: Rich Cotter, John Mallon, Amalia Duarte, Sue Schmerler, Pamela Kenworthy, Brian Boden, Noreen Syed, and Janet DeMeo

Visitors:

- Morse Willkenfeld a Potential replacement for Ralph Rhodes on the EC attended the June meeting to get a look at how the EC works and fulfills its mission, and to decide if he would like to join the EC going forward.
- Alex Battey: President of Board of Schiff's
- A local Boy Scout was present to observe the meeting procedures

1. The minutes of the May 21st meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Trail Stewards Program Update:
 - a. The Trail Stewards have worked on the following sites
 - i. Burnett Brook, loop trail
 - ii. Buttermilk Falls, Calais to Wood Duck Pond, and Combs Hollow to Frog Pond and lower trail to falls.
 - iii. Meadowood Park, loop trail
 - iv. Tempe Wick, most of trail (except portion at rear of property, in the woods, awaiting DPW to cut away downed trees)
 - v. Reblazed 90% of Meadowood Park loop trail in one (CW) direction and 10% of opposite (CCW) direction.
 - b. The DPW Cooperation:
 - i. Brian met with Dave Read of DPW and while they are understaffed and behind, especially after the storms that brought down so many branches and trees, they plan on helping.
 - ii. Dismal Harmony has started to be cleared from the East Main Street entrance but it is too overgrown. The DPW has advised that Morris County maintain that trail. Brian is still waiting for a response from Morris County.
 - iii. Some of the entrances and parking area signs are damaged, all are sun-faded, so discussions are going on to emulate Morris County's signs: fade/UV resistant maps and info made with a design for a sign structure to house them. This could be a future scout project (See item 9c in the minutes below).
 - c. New Leadership report for the program: Brian is looking to transfer responsibilities, which include picking trail sites, reporting to DPW, making a schedule for the stewards, communicating with stewards, and getting supplies and equipment. There is one possible candidate. Brian will follow up with them.
3. Follow up on a joint EC/Schiff's stream crossing on the Patriots Path connector trail to Schiff's:
 - a. Alex Battey, President of the Board of Schiff's attended the meeting to discuss steps for this initiative.
 - b. Alex has spoken with the landowners, who enthusiastically granted permission.

- c. The EC has confirmed interest in getting this project going. Alex will inform the landowners.
 - d. Future steps:
 - i. The Borough has put in some cylindrical stones on Patriot's Path (Ironia Road). A similar model could be used. To get more information on this model, Rich will get in touch with the Borough's EC, John and/or Brian will contact individuals from the county, and Alex will ask Schiff's board member from the Borough.
 - ii. Schiff's can commit to giving volunteers and scouts to take on river maintenance. Funding is limited, so it may be best to put back the existing stones. This would involve restoring and embedding them.
 - iii. July and August might be a good time to do this work, as the water level should be lower by then.
4. Parks and Recreation Committee progress:
 - a. The Ralston Playground will be a summer project completed in July.
 - b. Brookside Beach will be a camp beach with township residents free during the week and \$5.00 per person on weekends (June 25th – August 12th)
 - c. The EC commends the Recreation Committee on its two successful projects and both John and Amalia from the EC for their contributions.
5. Open Space Issues - Emerald Ash Borer effects on trail use:
 - a. This issue was raised by Brian Hayes, the Chair of the Tree Protection Committee. To address the Emerald Ash Borer, the trees can either be injected every 2-3 years so they can stay viable or wait for the trees to fall down naturally. Should the second option be chosen, Brian Hayes suggested the trails should be closed down.
 - b. At this time the EC does not support closing of the trails as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer and the costs for injecting and maintaining the trees is also not a practical solution since 1/10 of the trees in the township's trails are ash.
6. Updating Township Master Plan:
 - a. The Planning Board's last meeting focused largely on preparing for the joint township planning board meeting on June 26th at 7 pm at town hall.
 - b. The public should be aware that the master plan is on the township website. However, suggestions are being made to create a shorter summary of the Master Plan.
7. Mendham Township Committee combined Planning Board meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 7:00 PM at town Hall
8. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. There are 2 new deeds: a property transfer and actual sale
 - b. No expenses to date until the EC puts in \$75 for trail blazing expenses
9. Eagle, Gold and Silver Awards Scout Projects:
 - a. Jack Stanley successfully completed Burnett Brook Bridge project, where he replaced two rotting logs.
 - b. Another scout is submitting a plan to his troop. He will be doing some mix of bridge building, setting of walking planks, and/or blazing.
 - c. John suggested that the trail heads signs be replaced. Scouts could replace trail entrances and the maps.
10. Fourth of July EC/ Schiff Event Planning updates:

- a. Pamela will set up the EC's table by 8 AM and will bring open space flyers, some items for kids, and some "do's and don't" signs.
 - b. Janet will provide Pamela with a box of supplies for possible activities
 - c. Brian is to inquire about a canopy
 - d. Alex Battey will also be at the table representing Schiff's.
11. To continue a working relationship between the two Mendham EC's, the Borough's EC agenda and minutes are being distributed monthly.
12. Development of high school interns for township's boards and committees:
 - a. Amalia spoke to the Township Committee about inviting volunteer high school students to sit on the board of the following boards and committees: Recreation, Environmental Commission, and Historic Preservation. This would be an initiative to involve students with the township.
 - b. Noreen expressed interest in creating a form for students to apply. Mary has previously communicated with the high school's environmental club so Noreen and Mary can coordinate this together once Amalia has confirmed that the program is finalized.
13. **EC Notifications:**
 - a. Septic Replacement: 51 Corey Lane Mendham
14. **Future Issues & Events:**
 - a. June 28th Shared Services meeting _ Amalia
 - b. July 4th EC Participation

The EC will be on Vacation during the months of July and August, during which time no meeting will be held. The EC will communicate via email if issues arise.