

**Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes February 20, 2017**

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

Township resident Debbi Appel attended as well.

Rich distributed the agenda and Jamie agreed to take the minutes. Minutes for the January, 2017 meeting were accepted. These minutes are posted on the Township Hall bulletin board and Township website.

Sandra LaVigne, Director of Water Quality Programs at Great Swamp Watershed Association, presented the Commission with a slideshow overview of their mission and current programs. This association is now an affiliate of The Passaic River Waterkeeper Alliance and monitors water quality of the Passaic River, one of three rivers with headwaters in the Township. 2.5 million people get their drinking water from the Passaic which is C-1 designated in Mendham Twp. She copied the Commission with their 2015 Annual Report. GSWA offers their Stream Assessment Training Saturday March 18, 10 AM – 3 PM at Long Hill Twp. Library.

Treasurer's Report: Susan reported payment to ANJEC for 2017 dues (\$300 – 7 regular members listed) out of the \$500 annual budget. Janet DeMeo's fee of \$35 to attend an ANJEC seminar in March – Fundamentals of Effective Environmental Commissions – has also been approved to be disbursed from this account. ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant applications for up to \$1,500 are now online. Applications are due back early April. No cash match is required.

Open Space: Jamie distributed a list of information for each Township open space with trails and natural areas. This can be updated with dates each time a property is monitored and with any maintenance comments. She will meet with the Township administrator to add DPW's routine maintenance items. Several Commission members plan to attend the Town Hall meeting concerning the community's recreational needs and interests being held February 24th. Janet DeMeo will take the lead on Scout projects going forward. She will be copied on Ralph's information on past projects and his January 2017 list of potential Open Space improvements.

Planning Board, Board of Adj & TRC: Jamie attended a mandatory training program for PB members. Susan and Jamie reviewed the plans for the Girl Scouts of Northern NJ application to the Board of Adj. Driveway improvements in a Mendham Twp. conservation easement are proposed. The Commission requested review by the Board's environmental consultant. If the Township Committee amends the Deed of Conservation Easement for Steep Slopes dated 10/28/08 (slope area #11), the Commission asked to be copied for their files. There were no Planning Board or TRC meetings.

NJ Freshwater Wetland Protection Program: Rich continues to pursue access to the plans for a general permit #8 application. The proposed 750 SF addition at 60 Lowery Lane will result in encroachment into the 150 foot wetlands buffer zone.

2016 Annual EC Report: Rich presented a copy to the Township Clerk for submission to the Township Committee. The report is linked to the Commission's page on the Township website.

EC Documents: Ralph brought in an inventory of publications he and Sarah Dean currently have stored.

Adopt A Byway: Melanie removed the sentence referencing a broken sign up link from the Township website promotion. She added a new link back to the Environmental Commission page.

2017 Projects: The Commission reviewed Ralph's list of potential projects. Susan will work on summarizing pedestrian easement records. Rich can obtain brochures to promote septic system maintenance to be handed out at upcoming community events.

Spring Well Testing: Teri is working with Mara Tippet at RHA. Water sample kits will be picked up at Town Hall Saturday April 1st and returned Monday April 3rd. Information will be on the Township website and social media outlets. Flyers will be posted and Mendham TV will be notified.

2017 Stream Clean Up: Rich will request the \$300 RHA participation fee to be paid out of Clean Communities funds in the Township. Teri will work with the Borough EC and RHA to determine a meeting location in the Township for the Earth Day April 22nd event focused on litter clean up near the Raritan headwaters. Information will be on the Township website and social media outlets. Flyers will be posted and Mendham TV will be notified.

2017 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign: This campaign helps communities replace trees destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. Jamie will request 500 native bare root seedlings this year. Last year's 250 were all handed out in a short amount of time. These free seedlings will be handed out in bundles of five on a first come, first served basis on April 29th from 10 AM – noon in the Town Hall parking lot along with planting instructions. Information will be on the Township website and posted on social media outlets. Flyers will be posted and Mendham TV will be notified.

**Next meeting: March 20, 2017 7:30 PM
Janet DeMeo to present report on Recycling Presentation**

**Calendar for April EC events:
Well Water Testing – pick up test materials April 1, drop off samples April 3 Town Hall
Stream Clean Up – Earth Day April 22 – meet location TBD (Teri)
Tree Seedling Give Away - April 29 Town Hall (Jamie)**

**Future EC events in 2017– Dates TBD
Trail Walk (Teri)
Styrofoam Recycling in December (Rich)
India Park tree planting – Spring (John M)**