

**Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes April 17, 2017**

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Susan had no new report.

Open Space: Warren Gisser, Township Committee, will attend the County's Trail Construction Grant Program meeting.

Planning Board, Board of Adj & TRC: Jamie reported the Planning Board will meet this week. The agenda includes the application for a lot line adjustment between 2 Stoney Hill and Brookside Community Church. Verizon Wireless will make a presentation on their plan to locate and operate "small network nodes" on new utility poles to be placed in public right of ways in the Township. The Board has not yet received the required conservation easement deeds on the Maw subdivision property – these were a condition of approval. Jamie attended and commented during the Board of Adjustment April meeting concerning the Girl Scouts of Northern NJ's variance request to replace an existing structure (Fingarr Lodge) with a permanent residence for an on-site ranger. The variance is required as there will now be two uses of the R-10 property – a camp (received a "d" variance in 2003) and a single family residence. Improved access to the residence will be through a steep slope conservation easement deeded to the Township. The Scouts will have to go before the Township for approval to change the metes and bounds description in the deed as disturbance is prohibited. The Board granted the variance request subject to this and other conditions.

NJ Freshwater Wetland Protection Program: No new permit applications.

Recycling: Rich reported 50 lbs. of batteries were recycled in April.

EC Documents: Ralph will go to India Brook Park to inventory the files located there.

Eagle Scout Projects: Ralph and Janet agreed that Ralph will take the lead on Daniel Stanley's proposed bridge work in Burnett Brook.

Spring Well Testing: Teri reported an additional 25 well test kits were purchased. She and Mara Tippet at RHA feel this can now be scheduled as an annual Fall event – next to be offered in October of 2018.

2017 Stream Clean Up: The meeting location for the Earth Day April 22nd event will be at the Town Hall parking lot. Volunteers will register, receive supplies and be assigned a litter clean-up location. Teri has two sites to cover – along Combs Hollow and along Woodland. Information is on the Township website and social media outlets. The event is on NJ DEP's Earth Day calendar as well. Several interested participants have contacted Teri and Jamie.

2017 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign: This campaign helps communities replace trees destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. Jamie requested 500 native bare root seedlings this year. 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 is on the Township website and posted on social media outlets. The event is on NJ DEP's Earth Day Calendar. Educational material for the Emerald Ash Borer will be available. Rich will get RHA's septic system maintenance brochure.

2017 National Trails Day at Mendham Twp. Parks: Teri has a flyer for the event to be held June 3rd from 10 AM - noon. Three hikes will be offered – Dismal Harmony (Teri), Patriots Path (Jamie) and Buttermilk Falls (John Mallon). Publicity is on the Township website and FB. Information has been posted on the national website as well.

Next meeting: May 15, 2017 7:30 PM

April EC events:

Stream Clean Up – Earth Day April 22 – meet at Town Hall parking lot (Teri)
Tree Seedling Give Away - April 29 Town Hall (Jamie)

Future 2017 EC events:

National Trails Day at Mendham Twp. Parks - June 3rd (Teri)
Styrofoam Recycling in December (Rich)
India Park tree planting – Spring (John M)