A meeting of the Mendham Township environmental commission (EC) held on April 15, 2019 was called to order by Chairman Rich Cotter. Pam provided the minutes.

EC members present were: Brian Boden, Mary Calabro, Rich Cotter, Janet DeMeeo, Amalia Duarte (representing Mendham Township Committee), Pamela Kenworthy, John Mallon, Sue Schmerler and Morse Wilkenfeld. Pierce Lutz, Julia Niehoff and Paul Russo were also present. EC member Noreen Syed was not present.

Meeting minutes from March were accepted as is with no corrections.

AGENDA

Planning Board Projects – Janet reported a lengthy meeting was held on March 20 when the same Historic Pitney presentation made to the EC was heard and unanimously approved. The planning board also discussed 9 Shores Road and the creation of a bio retention basin and rip rap which is needed to conform with a natural channel to slow the water down and armor the streambed. A draft resolution will be voted on April 17th. A statement to the Township Committee for the master plan board to reconsider zoning nitrates in the soil resolution was passed. The tech review was cancelled because there is nothing urgent to consider.

Mendham Township Application for a Green Acres Stewardship Grant – The final signed green acres stewardship grant request letter the EC supported to the Members of the Garden State Preservation Trust for the development and stewardship of Pitney Farms was not circulated. Amalia will scan the letter for our files.

Grant Applications – Brian and Sue formed a sub-committee and wrote two grant applications this month. One was to ANJAC in the amount of $653 for supplies to assemble blazing kits and safety gear for trail stewards. The other was to NJ American Water for a large sum to hire contractors to do work the DPW used to perform, but no longer has the staff or time. This was in the amount of $4,450. Notification will be provided before the end of April if one or both of the applications have been granted. Next, a discussion ensued to formulate a ‘template’ for future applications

Seeing Eye Plantings – This item is closed due to funds that the EC no longer has when the idea was first presented (three years ago?) coupled with a non- response from Wicklow who was going to provide the supplies and manpower. A sidebar conversation discussed ideas to clearly state what is beyond the entrance from the roadway when signage is next addressed.

Easements Assessments – A list of walkway easements compiled by Sue and Morse was reviewed by the group. Volunteers were sought to go to the sites and provide a review of the condition of them and take pictures. A suggestion was made to send a letter to each homeowner to give them notice they may see a member of the EC surveying the walkway near or on their property and the township administrator will
be kept in the loop. Sue and Morse will research the deeds and begin the letter process and John and Pam volunteered to start the review of a few identified on the list.

**Compost Program May 2** – Pam reported she has posted a flyer at several locations (i.e. each of the schools, garden center, florist, Kings, etc.) announcing the location, date and time, etc. In addition, an article appeared in the Observer Tribune and the details are on the Mendham Matters website. The Northeast Organic Farming Association has posted the event on their website and the speakers have directions to the Town Hall. The program begins at 5:30 on Thursday, May 2.

**Cleanups** – Amalia attended the Schiff event and noted some of the attendees were outside of Mendham Township. Brian was scheduled to organize an abbreviated project on April 16 along Tempe Wicke with the Trail Stewards.

**FOLLOW UPS**

**Plaque** – Brian reported a purchase order has been secured and the money for the appreciation plaque to be placed at Meadow Wood will come from the Township Administration fund. The wording was approved for Sarah Dean Link’s and Ralph Rhodes’ outstanding service.

**Trail Stewards** – Nothing to report, they will be active in the coming months.

**Open Space** – There is some funding in a “park maintenance” pooled fund that the EC shares with the recreation committee for some signs, including a replacement for the missing property sign at India Brook Natural Area.

**Scouts** – One active scout project at India Brook Park is expected to start soon and finish before the summer. The project entails a new kiosk, picnic table near the falls and directional signs to the falls. The line item funds requested was not granted. It is hopeful the funding will be covered by the Parks Maintenance pool.

**Van Clef, Mosele program** – An email was received late in the day prior to the EC meeting indicating the program will not be as active in our area as originally thought and will be limited to a single day in July – yet to be determined.

**Parks and Recreation** – Amalia reminded the group of the playground’s official opening is April 28 at Ralston and a celebration of food and activities will be held from 4 – 7.

**High School members** – Julia’s last meeting was April 15; she is near the end of her senior year and has been accepted to Syracuse University to study environmental science. Clarification is needed regarding the rotation of a new member and the term length (last meeting) of the remaining members.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sue and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is May 20 at 7 in the Town Hall.