Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes from September 16, 2019 Meeting

Attendees: Rich Cotter, Brian Boden, Mary Calabro, Janet DeMeo, Amalia Duarte, Pierce Lutz, John Mallon, Paul Russo, Heather Toczack, Soni Baggiomini, Morse Wilkenfeld

Not present: Susan Schmerfer; Pamela Kenworthy

1. June 2019 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Rich informally introduced Heather and Soni. They are both attending the meeting to observe the EC prior to membership.
3. Brian asked the group to attend a brief ceremony on September 29 to officially dedicate the plaque in recognition of Ralph Rhodes’ service to Mendham Township. The ceremony will be at the Meadow Wood trailhead at 1 pm.
4. The EC discussed the need to increase the 2019/2020 budget to $750 to cover items like replacing signs and reimbursing Scouts for project costs.
   • John will talk to Dave on the Recreation Committee.
   • Brian will compile a list of budget items.
   • Sue will submit the budget request, which is likely to remain at $500.
   • The capital request will remain at $750 in 2020 for scout projects, plus an amount to be determined for purchasing and replacing signs on a planned basis; the Commission will get some vendor bids to refine the request amount, which is likely to be in the $3K-$4K range.
5. In Sue’s absence Morse gave an update on the Easement Project. At this point formal letters have gone out to all township homeowners whose property includes or abuts a walkway easement. The letter reminded homeowners of the purpose of the easements, included a copy of the tax map that includes the easement, and informed homeowners that members of the EC may be inspecting or doing clean-up work related to the easement.
   • As a next step the Easement Team will explore whether Easement rehab work can be converted into a Scout project.
6. The EC discussed researching grants that could be used for EC related projects in the township. Mary will convene a small group, including Brian and Morse, to: clarify the scope of projects where grants might be appropriate; begin to identify websites to for researching potential grants; and identify some grants that might be appropriate for the EC to pursue.
7. Janet gave an update on recent Planning Board activity. The major item is that the Pitney plans need to be updated, and will be reviewed at a planning meeting in October.
8. Brian gave an update on the Scout projects. He will invite Brennan to the next meeting to give a Trail Steward update.
9. Amalia shared a sample of the material that the township will be using for new signage. The EC agreed that the material would also be appropriate for its signage needs.
10. Mary reviewed the Well Testing plan. Well Testing kits will be available on October 26 outside the Town Hall. Mary, Rich and Morse will be at the desk to help on the event.
11. Rich will invite the leader of the Tree Preservation Committee to the EC’s next meeting to provide an update on their activities.
12. There was some discussion regarding an e-mail received from a homeowner regarding an invasive pest the homeowner observed at Dismal Harmony. John will call Kelly to see if any action is going to be taken.
13. Rich thanked the student reps for their work on the Commission, since this is their last meeting. New student reps will be joining the Commission in their place.