

Mendham Township Environmental Commission
Minutes from January 20, 2020 Meeting

Dowe by Morse

Attendees: Rich Cotter, Brian Boden, Mary Calabro, Janet DeMeo, Amalia Duarte, John Mallon, Heather Tokarz, Ethan Posner, Sue Schmerler, Martin Slayne, Kristin Andrade, Morse Wilkenfeld

Not present: Lauren Shrem

1. The minutes from December 17, 2019 were approved.
2. Introductions were conducted for Martin Slayne, a new EC member.
3. Kristen Andrada, Ambassador for Americorps NJ Watershed introduced herself and her role. The role is focused on raising awareness about water issues throughout New Jersey. Ambassadors are available to give free environmental presentations to schools and community groups. The discussion also covered upcoming clean-ups and the Whippany Water Commission.
4. *sketch* Rich provided an update on the successful styrofoam recycling event held on January 11. The event, sponsored by Carolynn Budd who leads Mendham Borough's recycling efforts, demonstrated how the Township and Borough can partner together on environmental issues. Carolynn has reached out to the EC to discuss additional events. Heather Tokarz will assume the role as liaison with Carolynn, and reach back out to her regarding other events. Brian will also investigate potential speakers covering recycling topics and issues. *+ MARIAN H. Mundy of Borough EC*
5. Rich gave an update on the recent India Brook violation. The potential for additional protections for streams and rivers is being investigated. Rich also invited a member from the Highlands Commission to meet with the EC. This will occur at the April 20 meeting.
6. The EC discussed the Commission's budget for 2020, and Amalia gave an update on the 5 year plan for upgrading trail signage.
7. Ethan provided an update on the pedestrian easement improvement project. He should have more information at our next meeting.
8. Janet reviewed a Planning Board update. The Pitney Farm project was given tentative go ahead, pending some final language and documentation. There were some modifications to the types of wells and drainage that will be used, and the width and easements for a section of road. Steep slopes will require a design waiver (to be in the resolution.) Dry wells will be replaced with day wells (PVC pipe going out to the lawns.) Roads widened to 28' will reduce the need for mountable curbs and sidewalks. The applicant must now submit a new plan for the location of Ballantine Road. The resolution will be voted on at the February 19th planning board meeting. *with*
9. Mary reviewed the grant opportunities that were identified and asked whether there was interest among any of the EC members to pursue the grants. There are two possible grant opportunities for \$1500 each, and grant applications must be in by April 6. Heather expressed potential interest, and will review the EC's grant parameters and the grant opportunities.
10. Janet provided an update on nitrate testing. The Nitrate Dilution and Current Carrying Capacity Modeling Proposal by Princeton Hydro, LLC was promised to the town by the end of 2019 but is now expected to be delivered by the end of February, 2020.
11. Mary shared with the group information regarding the Land Conservancy Scholarship Fund.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.