

January 9, 2020

The January 9, 2020 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Vice Chair Dawn Smith, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976 and followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chair Paul Tarlowe was excused. Present were Dawn Smith, Jim McMekin, Robert Jewell, Kathy Todd, Glenn Todd, Marin Martin and Ruth Pante.

MINUTES

Mr. Jewell MOVED to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mr. McMekin; all in favor with one abstention.

MAIL

JCP&L has filed an application for several state permits to allow vegetative maintenance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants

Landscape design for the front of the municipal building is a town project this year; \$2,000 has been suggested as an amount to request in a grant application. Possible improvement to the parking lot was discussed.

Application deadline for ANJEC grants is in April. We are now in compliance with the current grant, so hopefully \$1,500 can be requested this year.

Pollinator Bees

The status of bee huts and pollinators was discussed. Farms and farming applications in Mansfield were discussed; there is no agriculture office in Mansfield Township, but Warren County does have an Agriculture Department. It will be important to advertise upcoming events; discussion of the town website and its updating followed.

A pollinator program is scheduled for April 25, 11:00 a.m. at the Wattles Center. Ms. Martin will get chairs. The Audubon Society oversees the Wattles Center which is open to the public. Ms. Smith encouraged sharing awareness and would like to partner with other organizations such as Pequest Trout Hatchery. Fliers will be printed and distributed.

Mushroom Workshop

Mr. McMekin will do a workshop in the spring; an RSVP is suggested for crowd control. Mr. McMekin suggested April or May, date to be determined.

2020 BUDGET

ANJEC dues increased by \$25 this year, to \$375. A \$100 workshop request will be made for the pollinator bee workshop, and an additional educational workshop is anticipated in cooperation with the Mansfield School; date and school participation to be determined. Ms. Martin MOVED to approve a budget request in the amount of \$975, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor.

The year-end report will be drafted for review at the February meeting.

Mr. Jewell reported the Land Use Board is reviewing a request to tear down the house across from the old municipal building that was badly damaged by fire. This is an undersized lot and will require a bulk variance.

Ms. Martin showed bee cocoons and reported that 80 reeds netted 75 cocoons, one-third to be sent to Crown Bees for identification. Members present discussed using this as an educational tool for the school educational program as requested in the budget.

The 2020 meeting dates were reviewed, and the December 24 workshop meeting date was deleted. Mr. McMekin MOVED to approve the meeting dates for 2020, seconded by Mr. Todd; all in favor.

Mr. McMekin MOVED to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté