

May 11, 2017

The May 11, 2017 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Ruth Pante, James McMekin, Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Dawn Smith

### Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Smith to accept and approve the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell. All in favor with one abstention. So moved.

In the March 9, 2017 minutes it was noted that "Mr. Tarlowe questioned the pheasant farm" and that should be corrected to read that Mr. Tarlowe responded to a question by Mr. Herrightly. Mr. McMekin MOVED by Mr. McMekin to accept and approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe. All in favor with one abstention. So moved.

### Reorganization

At the March 9, 2017 meeting Mr. Jewell was nominated in absentia as Chair of the Environmental Commission, and that was conditioned on his acceptance of the nomination. Since that time, Mr. Jewell has stated he is unable to accept the position. The floor was opened to nominations for the position of Chair for 2016, and Mr. McMekin MOVED to nominate Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jewell. All in favor. So moved.

### Mt. Bethel Methodist Church

The Notice of Violation for dumping of alleged contaminated fill at the church has been corrected to show the fill now appears to be uncontaminated, as determined by NJDEP. JCP&L is bringing power to the pole today.

### Committee Reports

Ms. Smith reported the RTP trail grant was awarded to Mansfield Township in the amount of \$24,000. The Township Committee has rejected the previous work estimate because the numbers are now outdated and need to be modified to use them to execute the grant. The intended use is the trail link from municipal building to the park. The Township Committee must sign a letter in May agreeing to accept the grant; approval is needed. This money must be used this year. Ms. Smith recently walked the park with Connie Andershonis, Don Proefrock, and Patrick Wood of the Public Works Department.

The judging packets have just been photocopied for the photo contest. Ms. Smith has received the documents for the sales tax exemption. A total of less than 65 photos, about 20 applicants. There are four criteria (100 points), category winners will be awarded prizes. A news release will be posted by the Township Clerk and hopefully the newspapers will publish. Results will be announced at the Township Committee meeting of May 24.

### Environmental Issues

Mr. Tarlowe shared his experience at the Environmental Commissioners' Conference; most interesting was the focus on Environmental Resource Inventories. Mansfield's application for a Sustainable Jersey grant to update the ERI has been turned down.

Mr. Jewell reported Mr. DeLuca on Watters Road has applied for a variance on a proposed site plan but because it is not a subdivision, members are uncertain whether a variance is required.

ERI: Mansfield Township has budgeted \$7,000 for ERI updates; no grant was awarded. Members questioned whether part of the work can be done with the budgeted funds with the proviso not to exceed a set dollar amount. George White Environmental who did the 2006 ERI is no longer practicing in NJ. Mr. Jewell said the scope of work should be decided, then get a quote. The Township Clerk will be asked to send a pdf of the last ERI to Drew DeSessa and to Mazur. Tax maps are not required by the county.

Green Team member Connie Andershonis recently attended a workshop on the legalization of marijuana and its impact. Articles cited carbon footprint, concerns from Colorado, increased electricity (grown indoors), wetlands being siphoned for irrigation, draining ponds for water, clearing land to plant and harvest.

Mr. Jewell reported knocking down buildings at the Wattles Farm in which mud was used for insulation, even horse hair in one building.

The Anderson Hotel will become a luncheonette; a handicap spot is required in the parking lot.

Mr. McMekin reported a crop worthy of positive consideration is industrial hemp which can grow without the use of pesticides.

Ms. Smith MOVED to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:  
June 8, 2017**