

February 11, 2016

The February 11, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 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 were Elaine Drazek, Ruth Pante, Allison Lorentson, Robert Jewell, Dawn Smith, James McMekin; also attending were Township Committeeman Joseph Watters and resident Don Proefrock.

#### Minutes

A correction should be made to the January 14, 2016 minutes to delete the name of James Watters who was not in attendance. With that correction, Mr. Jewell MOVED to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Mr. McMekin. With two abstentions, the motion was approved.

Ms. Smith MOVED to approve payment of the ANJEC bill for 2016 in the amount of \$300.00, seconded by Ms. Drazek. All in favor.

#### Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

Two grant applications were just completed for Sustainable Jersey in preparation for an ERI update; by March 21 we should know if the grant is awarded. The next consideration should be an Open Space Stewardship Grant.

#### Cafferata Park

A \$24,000 grant has been awarded for trail paving. The 17 trees are all planted and staked. Mr. Terry will be planting more locust and dogwoods, but no redbuds. A written update is expected from Mr. Terry.

Mr. Proefrock reported the Cub Scouts built bluebird houses, six total, plus two from Mr. Todd to be placed at the Park. Mr. Ward has U posts available for mounting. Mr. Todd will share specific plans for placing bluebird houses. About \$70 remains from the grant, and Ms. Smith asked to consider purchasing signs for botanical identification. Once the grant requirements are met, a final report is needed.

Ms. Smith said Saturday, June 4, is National Trail Day. Ms. Drazek offered to host a guided walk beginning at 8:00 a.m.

#### ERI Update

Mr. Proefrock has reviewed responses of two firms, Diane Kratzer and Princeton Hydro. He has also contacted Mazur Engineering, but they have not responded.

#### Environmental Issues

Ms. Drazek has not heard from the art teacher at Mansfield School with Earth Day plans; she will again contact the teacher. T-shirts can be purchased as prizes for Earth Day competition; Ms. Drazek will prepare an order and process through Ms. Fascenelli who will use Clean Communities funds to pay. A discussion followed covering how many prizes can be awarded; members agreed fifth and sixth grade students should be competing because they will soon be out of Mansfield School. Possible competitions are recycling and decorating bags obtained from Shop Rite.

Mr. Jewell noted construction of the age restricted development on Rt. 57 is well under way; 225 homes are anticipated. The community will have its own water and sewer facilities, operated by the developer and approved by the DEP. Water will be supplied by American Water Company.

The oil spill on the Binder property in Port Murray has been contained; the next effort is to dig everything out and that is contracted through the state.

Mr. Watters began a discussion of incentives for solar energy. There is a high electric bill for Mansfield, particularly the municipal building, and solar panels should be considered. By considering a return on investment, this could bring the monthly bill down to zero, and this could be more lucrative at this time.

At 8:20 p.m. the meeting was turned over to the Green Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:  
March 10, 2016**