

TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, WARREN COUNTY

Green Team Minutes

May 8, 2014

The Green Team meeting was held this date at the Mansfield Township Municipal Building, 100 Port Murray Road, Port Murray, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Present : Donald Proefrock, Robert Jewell, Jennifer Keggan, Connie Andershonis, and JoAnn Fascenelli

Absent : Drew Di Sessa, Dawn Smith, and Michael Misertino

Also Present: Ruth Pante', James McMekin and Elaine Drazek

Environmental Commission Business: Ms. Pante' suggested making a donation to pay towards a sponsor for Pequest Moth Night. Ms. Pante' will follow up on the necessary paperwork.

ANJEC will be hosting 2 webinars. June 4th "How to be part of an effective Environmental Commission" and on June 11th "Environmental Resource Inventories". An email regarding these webinars will be sent to the Green Team members.

Rain Barrel Workshop: The workshop is scheduled for June 7, 2014 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. Mr. Proefrock will investigate obtaining additional barrels from Coke-A-Cola in P.A. A flyer will be developed advertising the event. It was suggested that approximately 750 copies be made for distribution in backpacks at the Mansfield Elementary School. The event will be advertised in the Treasurer Hunt, Township web-site, and Comcast channel. Mrs. Smith will pick up one barrel from the Hopatcong Township event and decorate same. The barrel will be donated to Pequest. Mr. Proefrock advised that Mr. Matt Barr (AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador) will provide an invoice for hauling the barrels to Pequest. Mansfield would be responsible for 1/3 the cost.

Backyard Composting Workshop: Mrs. Fascenelli advised she canceled the workshop due to the scheduling of having the compost workshop on the same weekend as the rain barrel workshop. At this time it would be better to concentrate on the rain barrel workshop.

Dedication by Rider: The Mansfield Township Committee approved the resolution at their April 23, 2014 meeting. The Resolution was then mailed to the State for their approval.

ANJEC Grant "2014 ANJEC Open Space Grants For Environmental Commissions": The Green Team was not awarded this grant. However, Mrs. Andershonis received feedback on why the Green Team was not awarded the grant for future reference. Mrs. Andershonis, Mr. Proefrock, and Mr. Tim Terry (Landscape Design & Construction) walked the trail. Mr. Terry gave several suggestions on removing dead trees and planting new trees in between trees that he feels will not survive. Mrs. Andershonis said that Mr. Terry suggested harvesting some of the cherry wood for resale. He also suggested putting a plan together for dormant trees. The Green Team would like to improve the curb appeal of the park front entry.

Mrs. Drazek expressed an interest in being involved with anything to do with the walking trail. She spoke about invasive species and the demise of native plants as well as wildlife species and wildlife habitats.

Pequest Moth Night: This event is scheduled for July 23, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. to be held at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. A flyer is available in the Municipal Buildings lobby and will be put on the Townships web-site.

TAP GRANT: (Transportation Alternatives Program) the grant deadline has been extended to June 30th. Mrs. Andershonis informed the Green Team that Mansfield cannot do the safe route to school highway and county road. So the following categories were discussed: 1) “Facilities for Pedestrian & Bicycles” and 2) “Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program”. Mrs. Andershonis contacted Mr. Andrew Lappitt from TransOptions and Mr. Brian Appezzato the Warren County Senior Planner and has also met with Mansfield Township Elementary School Superintendent.

Facilities for Pedestrian & Bicycles - The need for sidewalks, walk ramps and curb ramps along Route 57 were discussed. There is a lot of foot traffic from the Alexandria Apartments complex. Also discussed was a potential walking trail from the elementary school to the park.

Safe Routes to School: This action is broken into 2 levels (bronze and silver).

Bronze: 1. Build a Team

2. Resolution, endorsement letter or memorandum of understanding from the Township and/or School Board.
3. Plan and implement at least 2 walk and/or bike to school events.

Silver : 1. All of the above.

2. And Submit a school travel plan or conduct 4 walk and/or bike to school events (total 6 events) or conduct an evaluation of existing conditions survey.

Mrs. Andershonis stated that the County does not put sidewalks on county roads. She also discussed the signage for Bicycle – Share the Roads. She will reach out to bike clubs to see if they have any specific routes through Mansfield Township.

Land Use Pledge Resolution: Mrs. Fascenelli forwarded a draft resolution to Ms. Keggan and Mr. Di Sessa for their review

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal: Mrs. Andershonis advised that Mrs. Smith met with Chief Reilly regarding this event. The Police Department has already hosted one event. In order for the Green Team to qualify for points in this action item there must be 2 collection days per year.

Washington Township Green Fair: Mrs. Fascenelli emailed the registration forms to the Green Team members. Mr. Proefrock will check into having hybrid cars at the event.

Recreational Trail Grants: Mrs. Fascenelli advised that the Warren County Planning Department, Bilby Road Morris Canal Greenway Walking Bridge was awarded \$ 24,000.00.

Reusable Bag Education Program: Mansfield Township Clean Communities has purchased 1,000 cloth bags to help promote this action. Mrs. Fascenelli asked the Green Team members to review this action item and survey what local stores are doing regarding plastic bags.

Mrs. Fascenelli said the Township Clerk has advised that there is a large population of feral cats in the apartment complexes and has requested that the Green Team investigate grants. She has already requested the necessary forms from PetSmart for a capture, spay/neuter and release program.

Ongoing Projects:

Carbon Footprint – Mr. Proefrock will continue to work on this project.

Purchasing Resolution – Mrs. Fascenelli will continue to work on this project.

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

June 7, 2014 – Rain Barrel Workshop – Pequest Trout Hatchery, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June 21, 2014 – Mansfield Township Community Day. Ms. Keggan and Mrs. Fascenelli will attend the event.

July 23, 2014 – Liberty National Moth Week – Pequest Trout Hatchery 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

August 16, 2014 – Washington Township (Morris County) Green Fair.

October 4, 2014 – Mansfield Township Free Paper Shredding Event – Department of Public Works Garage – 1710 Route 57 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Next Green Team Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnn Fascenelli