

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2026
Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

The Regular meeting of the Mendham Borough ECOSST was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and the open public meeting statement was read into the record.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Arena	Present	Mr. D'Agostino	Present
Mr. Tracy	Present	Mr. Morris	Absent
Mr. Metzler	Absent	Mr. Verrengia	Present
Ms. Herrick	Present	Mr. D'Urso	Present
Mr. Foerster	Present		

MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Herrick, seconded by Mr. Foerster and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of February 2, 2026, meeting as submitted.

ROLL CALL

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Ms. Herrick, Mr. Foerster, Mr. D'Agostino, and Mr. Verrengia

Opposed:

Abstain: Mr. Tracy and Mr. D'Urso

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Arena opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda.

Mr. Gorman- 415 Bernardsville Rd. - Raised concerns about the environmental implications of rezoning the 112-acre Sisters of Christian Charity property, highlighting its critical wildlife habitat and high watershed value. Mr. Gorman was told that ECOSST does not receive any applications until the Joint Land Use Board receives them, and the Sisters of Christian Charity have not submitted an application to the Joint Land Use Board. Mr. Gorman stated the ECOSST should review prior to rezoning. Mr. Arena noted that a report will be submitted by ECOSST once they receive it, as in past practice.

Ms. Rivera – 175 Cherry Lane - a new resident, asks about the status of the application and the rezoning process. Ms. Rivera was told that there has been no application submitted to the Joint Land Use Board, and the rezoning question is a question to ask the Council.

Ms. Wragg – 425 Bernardsville Rd. – Asked why zoning is being changed before an application is submitted. Ms. Wragg was told that this question is for the Council.

Mr. Gorman – 415 Bernardsville Rd – Asked if residents can give information. Mr. Gorman was told that ECOSST can not make comments on an application that they have not seen.

Ms. Ansele – 8 Horseshoe Bend Lane – Asked if Council can make their decision before ECOSST does a report. It was explained to Ms. Ansele that ordinances are introduced by Council, sent to JLUB for Master Plan Consistency, and then go back to the Council to adopt. Once the ordinance is adopted, the applicant can file an application with the JLUB and at that time ECOSST receives a copy of the application for review.

There being no further comments, public comment was closed.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. **Work Groups Reports**
 - i. **Open Space / Farmland Preserve**
 - i) No Updates
 - ii. **Environmental**
 - i) No Updates
 - iii. **Shade Tree**
 - i) Mr. Foerster stated that there will be a tree planting on Arbor Day, April 24, 2026 at the Arboretum
 - ii) Mr. Arena asked if residents can still request a tree and Mr. Foerster stated that they would need to contact DPW to get on the list.

PROJECT GROUP REPORT

- a. **Scott Farm**
 - i. No Updates
- b. **Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program/Publicity/Events**
 - i. Mr. Verrengia stated that he contacted the school for a possible liaison and received no response.
 - ii. Mr. Verrengia noted that there is an app called Recycle Coach and asked if he can contact DPW to get the word out. Mr. Arena explained that an email should be sent to Lisa to forward to Councilmember Traut so that she can request.
 - iii. Mr. Verrengia explained that there is a company called Green Chip that takes the e-waste from the DPW, and if there were more days allowed for drop off, they would supply a shed.
- c. **Service Projects (Scout Liaison)**
 - i. Mr. D'Urso stated that Troop 1 is proposing a new sign for MASH and doing geolocation at the Hilltop Cemetery and asked if the projects need to come to ECOSST. Mr. Arena stated that those projects would not need ECOSST approval.
- d. **Trails**
 - i. Ms. Herrick spoke with the DPW Superintendent about suggested tree planting and not mowing in the retention basin area of Franklin and Coventry.
- e. Mr. Arena noted that there is a grant opportunity from ANJEC for the trail connecting Borough and Township trails at the end of Franklin.
- f. **Borough Park Arboretum**
 - i. No Update
- g. **Joint Land Use Board**
 - i. Mr. D'Urso noted that 2 ordinances were being reviewed for Master Plan consistency.
- h. **Council Updates**
 - i. No updates
- i. **India Brook**
 - i. Mr. Arena stated that he attended the last Council meeting with Trout Unlimited to get Phase III approved and explained that 100% of the project will be funded by Trout Unlimited.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Tracy, seconded by Mr. Foerster and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Smith

Land Use Coordinator