

**MINUTES OF THE  
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, March 4, 2024  
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. Tracy	Absent
Ms. Mundy	Absent	Mr. Foerster	Absent
Mr. Metzler	Present	Mr. Morris	Present
Mr. Wells	Absent	Mr. D'Urso	Present

**MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of the February 5, 2024, meeting as presented.

**ROLL CALL**

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Morris, and Mr. D'Urso

Opposed:

Abstain:

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eagle Scout Project ~ Kevin Stroup presented his proposal for an Eagle Scout project to construct a trail in the area behind the Mendham United Methodist Church. The loop of the trail will be approximately 1/3 mile. Mr. Stroup noted that there will be multiple entrances to the outer loop near the parking lot, behind the church, and next to the playground. Mr. Stroup explained that wood chips will be laid out over the path to make it more visible and last longer.

Motion by Mr. D'Urso seconded by Mr. Morris, and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the Scout project to construct a trail at the property that the Borough owns behind the Methodist Church, as presented.

Gavin Thrun- IB student~ explained that he and a friend have a general idea for a project and is coming to ECOSST for guidance. Mr. Thrun explained that he and his friend would like to receive permission to build and install approximately 20 bird houses. Mr. Thrun stated that the students need to spend 35 hours on the planning and execution of their service learning IB project. Mr. Arena gave examples of locations where the bird houses can be installed. Mr. Metzler suggested reaching out to Chris Neff with the National Audubon Society for suggestions of types of bird houses. It was explained to Mr. Thrun that once he puts together a presentation, he can contact the ECOSST secretary and be placed on the next available agenda for approval and once ECOSST gives approval, the presentation can go to Council for approval.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Work Groups Reports
  - a. Open Space / Farmland Preserve

- i. No Update
- b. Environmental
  - i) Mr. Metzler explained that an investigation of the vernal pools along Patriot's Path will be started soon.
- c. Shade Tree
  - i. Mr. Arena noted that tree plantings will begin in the spring and there are 350 seedlings coming that will be available in April.
- B. Project Group Report
  - a. Scott Farm
    - i. Mr. Arena stated that the DPW installed garbage and recycling containers at Scott Farm near the picnic tables.
    - ii. Mr. Arena stated that there may be an additional planting done by the Girl Scouts. DPW was asked to rototill.
  - b. Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program
    - i. Paper and Tech Shredding- April 6, 2024 from 9 AM -1 PM
    - ii. Raritan Headwaters Annual Stream Cleanup- April 20, 2024
      - 1. Mr. Arena stated that he will be the lead for this event.
  - c. Service Projects (Scout Liaison)
    - i. Mr. Arena suggested planting trees and picnic benches as a project behind the Methodist Church.
  - d. Trails
    - i. Mr. Metzler stated that he was contacted by Trout Unlimited regarding the condition at India Brook. Mr. Arena noted that the storms are washing the gravel into the stream.
    - ii. Mr. Arena noted that there was a Grant applied for from the County for Patriot's Path.
  - e. Events Calendar
    - i. No Updates
  - f. Methodist Church Property
    - i. No Updates
  - g. Community Wildlife Habitat
    - i. No Updates
  - h. Joint Land Use Board
    - i. Mr. D'Urso stated that there were 2 applications at the last meeting and a drywell will be installed based on Mr. Metzler's request with one of the applications.
  - i. Council Updates
    - i. No Updates
  - j. Publicity
    - i. No Updates

**NEW BUSINESS/OTHER ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by MR. Morris, seconded by Mr. D'Urso and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lisa Smith*

Land Use Coordinator