

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 1, 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	Present
Ms. Mundy	Present	Mr. Foerster	Present
Mr. Metzler	Present	Mr. Morris	Present
Mr. Wells	Absent	Mr. D’Urso	Present

Also Present:

Ms. Perkins
Councilman Sullivan

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of the March 4, 2024, meeting as presented.

ROLL CALL

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

Opposed:

Abstain:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Arena opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda. There being none, public comment was closed.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER ITEMS

Ms. Szwak, Board Member of ANJEC, gave a presentation and explained that ANJEC is a nonprofit organization that provides skills and services to Environmental Commissions. Ms. Szwak explained that there is one on one training on how to read site plans. Ms. Szwak explained that if there are any large projects with environmental impact, ANJEC can help. Ms. Szwak explained that ANJEC is a voice at the state level and helped to get the bag ban. Ms. Szwak noted that ANJEC has small grants available for open space. Ms. Szwak has games available for free for events. Mr. Arena noted that the Governor signed new laws regarding Mt. Laurel and Mendham Borough, which sits at the beginning of 3 major waterways. Mr. Arena explained that to meet the requirements there will be over-building and not sure if it is a good idea to over-build in an area where the waterways support so many people. Mr. Arena asked if ANJEC spent any time pushing back on these laws. Ms. Szwak noted that ANJEC works closely with the NJDEP and noted that they are at the table and trying but environmental concerns alone won’t overturn or change the affordable

housing requirements. Ms. Szwak suggested sending the letter that ECOSST sent to the NJDEP to ANJEC so that they can review as well. Mr. Metzler requested the member of ANJEC that works for the NJDEP's contact information.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Work Groups Reports

- a. Open Space / Farmland Preserve
 - i. No Update
- b. Environmental
 - i. Mr. Metzler noted that there was one application from the JLUB that had no environmental impact.
 - ii. Mr. Metzler explained he is working with Mendham Freedom looking for vernal pools in town and confirmed there was one at Scott Farm and near Patriot's Path and while there saw wood frogs and eggs. Mr. Metzler will be a part of registering the vernal pools with the State.
- c. Shade Tree
 - i. Mr. Foerster stated that the DPW will be starting to do the planting soon.
 - ii. Mr. Foerster explained that there will be native trees around the loop at the property behind the church as part of the Arboretum concept.

B. Project Group Report

- a. Scott Farm
 - i. Mr. Arena noted that a letter was sent to Morris County in favor of a grant to restore Scott Farm Barn into a 3-season facility.
- b. Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program
 - i. No Updates
- c. Service Projects (Scout Liaison)
 - i. Mr. Morris stated that the Eagle Scout received Council approval for the project to do website updates.
 - ii. Mr. Morris explained that the Eagle Scout that was to do the path on the property behind the Methodist church was asked by Council the cost. Council gave a conditional approval.
 - iii. Mr. Arena stated that he spoke to Joyce and was told that an arboretum would be a project for the property behind the Methodist Church.
- d. Trails
 - i. Mr. Metzler noted that there was a write up in the Mendham Messenger about the trail at India Brook is in poor condition. Mr. Metzler explained that the stone that was put down washed into the stream. Mr. Metzler stated that they are looking into what can be done without requiring a NJDEP permit. Councilman Sullivan noted that the DPW will be posting signs.
- e. Events Calendar
 - i. Paper and Tech Shredding- April 6, 2024, from 9 AM -1 PM
 - ii. Raritan Headwaters Annual Stream Cleanup- April 20, 2024
- f. Methodist Church Property
 - i. Mr. Tracy stated that most of the trees have been removed and now looks like part of the park and will need cleanup. Ms. Perkins stated that she will try to get environmental students to help clean up.
- g. Community Wildlife Habitat
 - i. Ms. Perkins is handing out flyers.
- h. Joint Land Use Board

- i. Mr. D’Urso stated there was 1 application approved at the last meeting and one approval allowed for 2 affordable housing.
- i. Council Updates
 - i. No Updates
- j. Publicity
 - i. No Updates

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Tracy, seconded by Mr. Metzler and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator