

May 12, 2016

The May 12, 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 Ruth Pante, Elaine Drazek, James McMekin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith and Robert Jewel. In the audience were Michael Misertino and Kathie Todd.

Minutes

Ms. Smith noted the following corrections needed to the April 14, 2016 minutes: On page 2, comments to the Park included the incorrect spelling of the Merrill Creek representative; it should read Jim Mershon, not Murchon. Also, it should be clarified that Mr. Mershon is working specifically with Cub Scout Pack 222 from Mansfield. Ms. Smith MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting as corrected, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor.

Cafferata Park

Ms. Smith reported no news on the tree planting at the park; she has seen one tree that might be dead. The botanical signs have arrived and are at the Municipal Building. There is a balance due of \$4.54 which is the amount exceeding the grant total. Ms. Drazek MOVED to pay \$4.54 for the signs from the Environmental Commission budget, seconded by Mr. Jewel; all in favor.

Ms. Smith said the Cub Scout Pack has been visiting the park weekly, Jim Mershon from Merrill Creek is leading with them. Two nesting boxes are successful with bluebirds and eggs. A new box has been donated. Ms. Smith contacted ANJEC about signs, and ANJEC suggested making one sign to be posted on the board at the park entrance.

Earth Day

Ms. Drazek reported Ms. Burns has e-mailed photos of the finalists in the recycling art contest for grades 1 through 6. Ms. Drazek will circulate to Commission members for voting. There are five choices from each grade, except grade 6. Entries are outstanding. It was suggested to award the prizes at the next Township Committee meeting.

2016 ANJEC Grant

The grant has been awarded, and Mansfield received \$500. Ms. Smith shared a draft of photo contest rules. This will be a multiple contest to keep up interest, which is not reflected in the rules. A sample of postings was shared. One winner will be chosen from each category. Ms. Smith will create an online catalogue; she said getting people to participate may be difficult. The rules allow for submissions, with no restrictions, and no monetary prize. No judges have been selected, and no entrant can act as a judge. Ms. Fascenelli warned that participants should not go onto private property without permission.

Green Infrastructure Workshop

Ms. Pante attended a workshop recently that was sponsored by ANJEC and focused on Green Infrastructure, or using natural means to retain and channel rain and runoff on properties rather than suggesting retention or detention basins. Channeling runoff into storm drains and into streams removes the benefits of keeping the valuable moisture and using it for green growth. This workshop was intended for use by environmental commission members and local planning boards; a similar workshop will be held May 26 which will focus on consulting engineers and landscape architects so the benefits can be vested locally while in the planning stage.

Mr. Jewel said the stormwater rules impact away from basins and smaller properties. He opined that larger developments will still need retention basins.

Moth Night

Ms. Smith spoke with Jim Mershon regarding the July 29 date for Moth Night at Merrill Creek. A time for the event has not yet been decided, but he said it will probably be hosted at the visitor center. This event could help Mansfield with points for Sustainable Jersey.

National Hike Day

Press releases have been prepared, the event is now on the Township Website and will be in the school newsletter.

Environmental Issues

Mr. McMekin reported the Washington Community Garden could use some help.

MOVED by Ms. Drazek to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:
June 9, 2016**