

November 8, 2018

The November 8, 2018 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, James McMekin, Glenn Todd, Robert Jewell and Ruth Pante.

### Minutes

Mr. McMekin MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell; all in favor.

### Committee Reports

Mr. Tarlowe reported no further contacts with the school. It is his hope that we can raise the profile of the Environmental Commission through outreach efforts such as through the school. Several vacancies remain on the Environmental Commission, and recruiting would be most effective at an event such as a community day or school event. Grant opportunities were not discussed, Ms. Smith was absent.

### Environmental Issues

Mr. Jewell reported a variance request for a detached garage has been granted. Commission members discussed "echo" homes, a government program allowed by town ordinance. These tiny homes are constructed as a second home on a town property to accommodate an aged or infirmed person the opportunity to remain independent while under the supervision of the homeowner; utilities would be served through the homeowner.

Mr. Jewell said construction is ongoing at Meadows of Mansfield; 17 permits have been issued; there is gas and water but not the required flow of water. There are three 21,000 gallon fire tanks on site; these tanks are not tied together, and they will require heating to survive the cold.

One street in Diamond Hill has an area where water is now accumulating; Mr. Jewell noted this is probably the result of the high water table from the excessive rainfall this year.

Mr. Tarlowe did not attend the last meeting of the Musconetcong Watershed Association. That organization is readying the mill in Asbury to be a museum by installing electric and heat. The rehab efforts by many volunteers marks the progress in this endeavor. The mill has limited parking along the river and an island mid-stream. Dams are coming down in Warren County, the shad are returning. There is a church and cemetery in Hampton that should be considered for both state and federal historic registers.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic River Act. The shad have returned to NJ and Mansfield should try to capitalize on this for tourism purposes.

Mr. Todd MOVED to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Pante