

December 14, 2017

The December 14, 2017 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair Dawn Smith, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Dawn Smith and Ruth Pante.

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe. All in favor.

Budget

Members prepared the following budget numbers:

\$350.00 ANJEC membership

\$125.00 Moth Night 2018

\$25.00 Botanical signs for Cafferata Park

\$100.00 Lumber and hardware for repairing the bluebird boxes

\$7,500.00 ERI

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to approve the budget as prepared, seconded by Ms. Smith; all in favor.

Meeting dates for 2018 were discussed, with one correction noted. It was MOVED by Ms. Smith to approve the meeting dates for 2018, seconded by Mr. Jewell. All in favor.

Resident Survey Report

Ms. Smith presented the results of the resident survey at last evening's Township Committee meeting. The survey contained 34 questions; there were 283 responses with 76 percent completing the survey; 98 percent were Township residents, most owned their home, and 56 plan to live in Mansfield more than 10 years. Respondents rated digital communication, social media reporting, community safety, public safety, recreation needs, animal control, crime. Important items to be addressed are increasing communications, Cafferata Park, road repairs and drainage. The final report is being prepared.

Mr. Tarlowe questioned a recent hazmat response on Brantwood Terrace. It was explained that this was a recurrence of groundwater contamination, the original of which was in 2012. The report was vague, and Mr. Tarlowe was urged to file an OPRA request.

Reporting for the Land Use Board, Mr. Jewell said a property owner on Hazen Road has been granted a variance. This is a General Permit for a septic system to allow construction of a house.

Trail Grant

Applied for in 2014, awarded \$24,000 but sat for a long time. Township Committee did not want to get involved with Green Acres rules, but this is not Green Acres funding. It was

discussed at last night's Township Committee meeting, and attorney Lavery will define if there are encumbrances and what they might be.

Cafferata Park

The Park was re-mortgaged this year. The pathway is disappearing at the Park; money may be available for path repairs but must be used by April 1.

Columbia Too

The Rt. 57 property now for sale, 81 acres. It is a licensed salvage yard, so the land, which borders Cafferata Park, is likely contaminated. Vehicles are visible at the Park property line. The real estate broker recommends the Township buy the property.

Michael Soares, Valley Road, is applying for a general permit to repair a malfunctioning septic system. Mr. Jewell said this is a foreclosure, an advance treatment septic system is needed. No environmental comments.

It was MOVED by Mr. Tarlowe to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante