

August 13, 2015

The August 13, 2015 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. Present were Ruth Pante, Glenn Todd and Robert Jewell; excused were Elaine Drazek and Dawn Smith. Also in attendance was Township Committeeman Joseph Watters.

#### Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor.

#### Correspondence

The application of HMUA for flood hazard area verification for the Washington Township, Morris County facility was reviewed. HMUA proposes to decommission and remove an approximately two-acre equalization basin at the HMUA plant at Ensa Drive. Mr. Jewell remarked that technology is changing and possibly HMUA no longer needs the structures. He suggested the berm was probably in place to protect from rising waters but is now no longer needed. Ms. Fascenelli asked about recycling of the concrete that is being removed. Mr. Watters asked the reason for this removal. It has been reported that HMUA is one of the best run facilities in the state. Members had no further comments.

#### Cafferata Park

Ms. Pante reported that she, Dawn Smith, Connie Andershonis, DPW Director Kevin Ward, forester Tim Matthews and ANJEC representative Dave Peiffer met and followed the walking path at the park. Using measurements, a number of invasive trees were recorded and will be removed by DPW. Mr. Peiffer suggested some conservation measures be put in place in the area currently being farmed to prevent erosion. It was learned that a prison in south Jersey has in the past constructed and distributed bluebird houses; the park is a perfect place to offer bluebirds a nesting zone.

#### Moth Night

Mr. Jewell and Ms. Pante attended Moth Night at Liberty Township and reported an enthusiastic crowd enjoying the large variety of moths that visited the site. Mansfield's participation and support of this event was a contribution of \$125 to cover the cost of lawn signs; also, Ms. Pante and Mr. McMekin volunteered their time in planning the event as well as at the event itself. Liberty Township Environmental Commissioner Phil Wooldridge has suggested Mansfield as a possible host for the event next year. Commission members asked what preparation is necessary, what is the cost, and suggested a call to the Township Clerk to learn if there are any other issues before a decision to participate is made.

#### ANJEC Road Show

The October 8 date chosen for the Road Show presentation is not possible because of an ANJEC scheduling problem. However, ANJEC at this time can do the presentation on October 22 or November 12; both dates are Environmental Commission meeting nights. Ms. Pante will call to secure a date.

#### Gypsy Moth Infestation

The infestation by Gypsy Moths in northern NJ has been documented by the state and reported in the newspapers. Discussing this and questioning what this Commission should do to request spraying next spring, Mr. Watters said Warren County will do spraying probably through a grant from the state; it is not the Township's responsibility; the state will notify the County if spraying is necessary, and the County will contact Mansfield. Mr. Jewell reported an infestation on his property, leaves are falling off his trees.

#### Environmental Comments

Mr. Todd reported a very big black bear in his neighborhood; Commission members discussed the upcoming bear hunts, one in October and one in December.

Mr. Todd MOVED to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. and the meeting was turned over to the Green Team.

submitted,

Respectfully

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:  
September 10, 2015**