

April 9, 2015

The April 9, 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 Meetings Act of 1976. Present were Ruth Pante, Elaine Drazek, James McMekin, Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd, Township Committeemen Joseph Watters and Michael Misertino. Also present were Connie Andershonis and Mrs. Terry Johnson, art teacher at Mansfield School.

MINUTES

Mr. Jewell MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 meeting, seconded by Ms. Drazek; all in favor.

EARTH DAY

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Drazek have experienced difficulty finding DVDs that could be used in the classroom; Ms. Andershonis, suggesting reusable plastic bags as a target, noted a DVD titled "Bag It" is an excellent recycling education DVD. Earth Day is next week, and Commission members agreed decorating paper grocery bags is a possibility for the students. Ms. Andershonis and Ms. Drazek will contact Shop Rite to seek donation of bags. Also, Ms. Johnson suggested the students decorate murals on rolls of paper to be hung on the school walls. Ms. Johnson will put forth an effort to teach recycling to both students and teachers. Ms. Fascenelli suggested a recycling audit be undertaken at Mansfield School.

EMERALD ASH BORER

Mr. McMekin reported a successful event March 19 with John Cambridge who will speak on the invasive insect that has arrived in Warren County that is killing ash trees in its path. Mr. McMekin's neighbor was recently visited by a forester who suggested all ash trees be removed from his property.

MOTH NIGHT

No updates have been received from the Liberty Township Environmental Commission.

WATERSHED AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Ms. Andershonis explained the interactive presentation and highlighted the responses of the young participants in the audience - students and Scouts, as well as their parents. Point and non-point contamination was explained using a model of a town with hands-on demonstrations of how pollutants make their way into streams.

ANJEC GRANT

The ANJEC 2015 Open Space grant application was submitted within the deadline; it is not known when awards will be announced.

Mr. Todd reported the tree swallows are back, so it is officially spring, though a little late this year. Also, Ms. Drazek reported sighting a kestrel, not commonly seen in Warren County.

Mr. Proefrock reported evidence that oil was dumped into Hance's Brook through the road grate; an overturned oil container and several oily rags were found. Mr. Watters was unaware of this event but said he will discuss this with the Police Department and suggest that cameras be installed in the area.

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The meeting was turned over to the Green Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

Next meeting date:

May 14, 2015