**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2022**

The January 13, 2022 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, James McMekin, Robert Jewell, Amanda Kilyk, Ann Bemis, Ruth Panté, Township Committeeman Glen McGuinness and Coordinator Dena Hrebenak. Not responding to the invitation were Glenn Todd and Kathie Todd. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

No meetings were held in October, November and December, 2021. It was MOVED by Mr. Jewell to accept and approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting, seconded by Ms. Kilyk. With one abstention, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Tarlowe circulated a letter from Dynamic Environmental Associates concerning a project to install wireless communications equipment at and on an existing electric transmission line support and informing this Commission of the permit application to the NJDEP per Highlands Act rules. No wetlands or environmental issues are seen by Mr. Tarlowe. Mr. Jewell said this site, Corrado’s farm, is probably the best place for this addition to an existing tower. Commission members had no further comments.

2022 CALENDAR

A list of meeting dates for the coming year sets the second Thursday of each month as the scheduled meeting date. This list is to be added to the Township website calendar and will include all legal notifications.

MEMBERSHIP

 Mr. Tarlowe expressed continuing concerns about Ms. Todd’s extended absences, but Mayor Watters said she plans to be more involved in the Commission this year. Mr. Tarlowe reported he heard from Mr. Todd who informed him he will attend meetings when held in person and provided his reason for not attending remotely. Newly-appointed member Ann Bemis was introduced to Commission members.

BUDGET

A budget request will be made to the Township Committee for $675 for Environmental Commission expenditures in 2022. This includes $375 for ANJEC dues, $200 for signage to commemorate the Salem Oak seedling at Cafferata Park (this figure includes the signage, posters and proposed mailing to Township residents to promote the event and Cafferata Park), and $100 for repair and maintenance of the bluebird boxes at Cafferata Park.

It was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to request the 2022 budget amount of $675 from the Township Committee for 2022, seconded by Ms. Panté. With no further discussion or abstention, the motion carried.

YEAR-END REPORT

A draft year-end report will be circulated for discussion at the February meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mr. Tarlowe reported his neighborhood walks have shown the bluebirds that winter over remain active, many have been seen. The nesting boxes at Cafferata Park are all in good condition, some having minor repairs completed. Mr. Tarlowe hopes Jim Mershon will be able to participate in this project once again. Mr. McMekin said he has some oak, black walnut and sassafras wood that can be donated for new boxes. Mr. Jewell has a box constructed by Mr. Todd that can be used as a pattern.

Mr. Tarlowe has been on the Mansfield Neighborhood Watch Facebook page where he has posted a Salem Oak seedling report; there have been 60 to 70 favorable reactions to his post. He said the seedling had a good growing season, the leaves were robust. He wants to post more about the seedling, the bluebird boxes and use of Cafferata Park. He plans to update the kiosks and offer more promotions about the Park. Ms. Bemis suggested promoting the Park and adding benches, tables, etc.

Mr. McGuinness said it is the Recreation Committee that must recommend additions; the Public Works Department does the maintenance. He offered to look into this further.

RECYCLING FACILITY

Many Township residents are in opposition to this proposed Blau Road facility. It is in an industrial zone, no zoning changes are needed. A decision could be obtained from the County and the NJDEP, avoiding Mansfield Township approval.

LAND USE BOARD

Mr. Jewell reported a hearing continuation for Uriah Realty which is purchasing what was once Tony’s Catering on Route 57. The existing structure will be demolished, and in its place will be one structure with two units (one is Dunkin Donuts, the other is a rental). Engineering submittals are required showing parking and on-site stormwater management.

Another application has just been received for Luna Farms, but it has not yet been reviewed. Ms. Hrebenak commented Luna was running an AirBNB with one house on the property plus one cottage. Stormwater management is in question.

Airport Road Estates will be nine sites of 3-acre lots; this has been approved for well and septic, but no movement yet.

GREEN TEAM REPORT

Ms. Fascenelli has reported 100 calendars were ordered showing photos that were entered in the photo contest held three years ago. Also, a shredding event is planned for October 15.

It was MOVED by Ms. Panté to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:**

**February 10, 2022**