

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2021

The April 8, 2021 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, Ruth Panté and Township Committeeman Glen McGuinness and Township Clerk Dena Hrebenak. Amanda Kilyk was excused. Not responding to the invitation were Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd, Kathie Todd and Desiree Dillon. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to accept and approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe. With no discussion, corrections or abstentions, the motion carried with all in favor.

Correspondence

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Panté said she spoke with Ms. Fascenelli who reported the March 10 letter from Mr. Sosis has been circulated and she has reached out to two companies to invite them to Mansfield to make a presentation outlining the potential dangers of PFA contamination and possibly offer testing services to residents.

Bluebird Trail

Ms. Misertino and Ms. Barrett and their three sons will again monitor the bluebird trail. Ms. Misertino has updated the online reporting site. Mr. Tarlowe visited the park again this week to paint new numbers on five of the seven boxes; all are now numbered and are intact. Fasteners should be replaced on several. Mr. Tarlowe observed several people walking the trail. In an effort to get more involvement, Mr. Tarlowe e-mailed the township elementary school and asked that our flyer be posted. He was disappointed that the school would not post the flyer, with the Principal Mr. Melitsky stating they cannot take on any new responsibilities. Mr. Tarlowe explained that nothing was expected from the school other than posting the flyer but received no further response. Ms. Misertino and Ms. Barrett were provided the flyer for them to circulate.

Salem Oak Seedling

Ms. Hrebenak has shared a letter from the state indicating the seedlings can be picked up; Mr. Tarlowe offered to pick up the seedling at Andover. He called John Snyder who will provide mulch and fencing for the seedling. Mr. Tarlowe, Mr. Snyder and Environmental Commission members can attend since this is an open air gathering. Mr. McMekin suggested a video be

made to record the event, Ms. Panté suggested a dedication ceremony be held some time in the future. Mr. Tarlowe will coordinate with Mr. Snyder. The week of April 25 has been selected to plant the seedling.

Year-End Report

In a brief discussion, members offered no additions to the topics included in the draft report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tarlowe noticed there is no water available at Cafferata Park and Mr. Jewell was not present to offer his expertise of installation of a fountain. Discussion on a way to get a water line, expense, maintenance, or even to prevent vandalism followed. Ms. Hrebenak noted oversight of the Park is the purview of the Township Committee; there is more to consider when it is public water. Thoughts from the Township Committee will be sought; Mr. McGuinness remarked there is much to consider for such a project.

Mr. Tarlowe noticed at one side of Cafferata Park huge mounds of earth, soil, trees, etc. are visible at the former Port Murray Auto Salvage site. An enormous area along the Park boundary has been cleared; the view is mountains of soil and debris. Asked if this is legal, Ms. Hrebenak said there is no ordinance covering such activity, the new owner is in early stages of work on a large building. The plans are for trees along the property line, and approval for this was made about two and a half years ago; the new owner is transparent in his activities and plans. The business involves selling cars via the internet, though some recycling is ongoing. Mr. McMekin suggested we learn if the concrete is being recycled.

The Township is offering space for an Environmental Commission write-up in the newsletter that will be included with the 2021/2022 tax bill. The Salem Oak seedling and its planting can be included.

It was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:
May 13, 2021**