

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2023

The January 12, 2023 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was held at the Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976 and was followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Jim McMekin, Glenn Todd, Ann Bemis and Ruth Panté. Absent were Kathleen Todd, Amanda Kilyk and Robert Jewell.

MINUTES

No meeting was held in December, 2022. The minutes of November 10, 2022 were reviewed. It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to accept and approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Tarlowe. With no objections or abstentions, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A bill from ANJEC for 2023 membership was received in the mail; the annual rate has gone up to \$400, a \$25 increase. Ms. Panté MOVED to authorize payment of \$400 to ANJEC for 2023 membership, seconded by Mr. Todd; all in favor. The motion carried.

Ms. Fascenelli has shared the Green Team accomplishments for 2022 that will be part of this Commission's year-end report.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Tarlowe nominated Ms. Panté as Secretary for 2023, seconded by Mr. McMekin. All in favor with no abstentions or corrections. Ms. Panté nominated Ms. Todd as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Todd. All in favor with no corrections and one abstention. For the Chair position, Ms. Panté nominated Mr. Tarlowe, seconded by Mr. McMekin. The motion carried.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

Pollinator Garden: Ms. Todd was absent and no report was available. Members present discussed the absence of water at Cafferata Park and how that would be problematic.

Salem Oak Seedling: Mr. Tarlowe said the tree is dormant at this time but he plans a Facebook post to update Mansfield residents.

Bluebird Trail: Township resident Grace Kocher who hiked and saw nestlings last year wants to support this effort; she would like to donate some boxes. Last year Jim Mershon helped with the monitoring and banding, and Mr. Tarlowe is hoping he is available again this year. Mr. Tarlowe would like to do a guided walk at the park. So much activity is open to the public at the Cafferata Park including hiking, biking and running but participants must be warned about bears.

JoAnn Fascenelli, Chair of the Green Team, will be contacted to ask if the trail at the park should be checked for safety reasons.

Meadows at Mansfield Wastewater Treatment Facility: Ms. Bemis reported construction has resumed with approval; the DEP is monitoring progress. Everything needed for the treatment facility is on order. She suggested the Land Use Board may have more information, but Mr. Jewell was not present today.

NEW BUSINESS

A weekend interpretive hike for township residents at the Port Murray Preserve on Hoffman Road is under consideration. Mr. Tarlowe explained that he is involved with the Warren County Parks Foundation as well as the Warren County Morris Canal Committee doing work at the site of inclined Plant 5W in the preserve. Much clearing has been done but much remains to be done. Rail fencing was installed at the base of the plane site and at the power house turbine chamber. A chain link fence was installed by the county at the chamber, albeit incorrectly.

2023 MEETING DATES

The 2023 meeting dates for the Environmental Commission were reviewed. It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to accept the monthly meeting dates as the second Thursday of each month, seconded by Mr. McMekin with all members in favor. The motion carried. Discussion was opened to virtual or in-person meetings; Mr. Tarlowe said the virtual meetings in the last two years went well and he reminded that meeting virtually will save time and gasoline, thus offering decreased environmental impact. He took a poll, and one member wants total virtual and one member wants total in-person meetings; all others would choose a mix. Mr. Tarlowe will suggest this decision to the Mayor and ask if we might alternate meetings.

2023 BUDGET

Members present agreed that an increase of \$25 for a total request of \$700 would cover \$400 for ANJEC dues, and the remaining \$300 could allow some funds for signage and possibly a picnic table or bench at Cafferata Park. It was MOVED by Mr. Tarlowe to request \$700 for budget year 2023, seconded by Mr. McMekin. With no corrections or abstentions, the motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth A. Panté, Secretary

**Next meeting date:
February 9, 2023**