**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

The February 10, 2022 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, Ann Bemis, Ruth Panté, Township Committeeman Glen McGuinness, JoAnn Fascenelli and Township Clerk Monica Orlando. Amanda Kilyk was excused. Not responding to the invitation were Jim McMekin, Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd and Kathie Todd. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Without a quorum, it was decided to vote on the Minutes of the January meeting at the March meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

Blau Road Recycling Facility Proposal

A meeting was held at the Blau Road site to which Township officials were invited. Mr. Tarlowe and Mr. MeMekin attended on behalf of the Environmental Commission; Ms. Bemis attended a later meeting that was open to the public.

A presentation was made by the owner; the owner wants to maintain an agricultural site. However, residents’ concerns are truck traffic on Blau Road past the Grandview development (Rockport Road is the town-designated truck route), vermin, odors, light pollution and other concerns. The developers had answers to all questions from the audience concerning noise, vermin, etc. Mr. Tarlowe circulated to Commission members handouts from the meeting and will also share with Ms. Fascenelli.

Salem Oak Seedling

Proposed wording for the signage has been circulated. Mr. Tarlowe researched a source and costs for signage; the estimate for this project is very reasonable. Whether to use wood or plastic is still to be decided; Mr. McMekin’s opinion will be sought for this decision as he offered to make one in a conversation with Mr. Tarlowe.

Musconetcong Watershed Association Road Salt Use Study

A study of the impact of road salt on the Musconetcong River and some of its tributaries is being conducted by the MWA. Mr. Tarlowe is participating by sampling for conductivity and chloride levels at five locations in Mansfield. He noted that streets in his development seemed to be salted more heavily than necessary.

Mr. Tarlowe brought Mr. McGuinness into the discussion. Mr. McGuinness informed that some residents feel not enough salt is put down. Mr. Tarlowe acknowledged that with the hilly terrain of the township, and tree-lined roads, there are probably sections of roads that do need heavier application of salt. He had spoken to DPW head John Snyder who said he’d look into adjusting the spreaders.

Tree Recovery Campaign

This state plan was instituted after Hurricane Sandy did so much tree damage. Mansfield Township has many areas that are heavily wooded. Therefore, it is not expected that homeowners will participate. However, Mr. Tarlowe asked Ms. Orlando to post this offering on the Township website.

Year-End Report and Green Team Report

On behalf of the Green Team, Ms. Fascenelli has prepared a year-end report which will be attached to the Environmental Commission report. In 2021 the Green Team consisted of five members: Ms. Fascenelli, Glen McGuinness, Leigh Raffaele, Amanda Kilyk and Robert Jewell; however, only two members are active at this time. Additional members will be recruited for the Green Team. Ms. Fascenelli said May 4, 2022 is the final date for general use of plastic bags in NJ. Reusable bags must be cleaned regularly for grocery and general use. Mr. Tarlowe asked for more publicity now to avoid a rude awakening by the public.

The Green Team continues to collect plastic bags to be recycled; the town has participated in the past with this program which rewards towns with outdoor benches made of recycled plastic. Ms. Bemis suggested a collection spot at Meadows of Mansfield.

The Township Facebook page now has 300 followers. Mr. Tarlowe will post photos of the Salem Oak Seedling in the spring.

A 2022 calendar was a success and it is hoped a repeat for 2023 can be undertaken. Photos from the contest two years earlier were used in the present calendar; new photos will be sought showing Mansfield highlights.

Instead of a town-wide yard sale, an outdoor flea market is being considered in which residents bring items to a location (possibly the football field) to set up a table and offer items for sale. Donations could be sought to offset expenses. Mr. Tarlowe questioned the viability of such an event and the amount of work necessary for it to be successful.

Environmental Issues

Still new to this Commission, Ms. Bemis questioned further the process by which the Blau Road facility could proceed. No variances or approvals are needed to meet Township zoning requirements, but if the Township Committee writes a letter of support, or of non-support, the County would have to consider the suggestion. However, approval would be needed from the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) and permits are needed from the NJDEP. Nothing has been submitted to the Township Committee or Land Use Board. The owners presented their proposed project to the Land Use Board in June as a courtesy and to hear any concerns or suggestions the board might have.

It was MOVED by Ms. Panté to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:**

**March 10, 2022**