**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES – AUGUST 11, 2022**

The August 11, 2022 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 followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present were Paul Tarlowe, Glenn Todd, Ann Bemis, Kathleen Todd and Ruth Panté; excused were Amanda Kilyk and Robert Jewell.

MINUTES

It was MOVED by Ms. Bemis to accept and approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting, seconded by Ms. Todd. With no further discussion or corrections, all were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The NJDEP has put a drought watch into effect at this time due to the low level of rainfall this summer.

Bluebird Trail

Mr. Tarlowe reported he and Jim Mershon checked the boxes last week. This season 34 nestlings and 3 adult bluebirds were banded. He also reported the presence of tree swallows. The nesting boxes are in good shape. Mr. Todd urged cleaning out the boxes now to remove potentially damaging debris.

Salem Oak Seedling

The informative statement shared at the July meeting and a copy of the official Certificate shared at that meeting have been mounted at the site.

Proposed Blau Road Recycling Facility

Mr. Tarlowe shared with members an e-mail he received, a 90-page application/plan for the Blau Road facility. Members were urged to read through it. The mailing includes a copy of the March letter sent to Mayor Watters which pledges to maintain a good faith relationship with Mansfield Township; no response to that letter was received and Mr. Tarlowe is sorry that none was proffered. This Commission sees no wetlands threat and no flood plain area is affected.

Morris Canal Greenway

The Greenway was designed to be 100 miles across the state, from Phillipsburg to Jersey City, and within that is a 13-1/2 mile stretch (approximately one-fourth of the Greenway) that lies within Warren County, and about four miles of that within Mansfield Township, including the Port Murray Preserve. Mr. Tarlowe would like to see this commission take an active role in promoting this once fencing is installed at the turbine chamber site and trail markings finalized.

Pollinator Garden

Ms. Todd reported a conversation with Ann Marcioni, chair of Caldwell’s Environmental Commission, who reported using Open Space funds to purchase property and develop a pollinator garden. Ms. Todd suggested a less ambitious undertaking and suggested an area at the municipal building or at the township park. Ms. Panté reported joining a recent ANJEC Roundtable Session: Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat which covered a much larger endeavor but was a wonderful source of information. Such a garden will require regular monitoring and watering for at least the first year. Mr. Tarlowe suggested a brief tour of the municipal building after this meeting to see if it might be a site for a pollinator garden.

Mansfield School Recycling Program

Ms. Todd reported she has not yet contacted anyone yet but will do so after school year begins next month.

Meadows at Mansfield

With building equipment now on site for the treatment plant, Ms. Bemis understands compliance efforts are now in place. Further expansion is planned for the future.

Land Use Board Report

Mr. Jewell was not present.

Green Team Report

Ms. Fascenelli said photos are being sought for a 2023 calendar. Photos of the bluebird boxes were suggested for inclusion; however, proprietary caution of the photos was suggested.

It was MOVED by Ms. Todd to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. and members present went outdoors to tour the municipal building grounds.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:**

**September 8, 2022**