

APPROVED
MEETING MINUTES
FOR

Mendham Borough Environmental Commission

October 19th, 2017 7:30 p.m.

The Phoenix House

Roll Call: Peter Barry, Marian Mundy Hooper, Dave Sharkey, Paula Barber, Brennan Reilly

Approval of Minutes: APPROVED

Old Business:

- Tranquility Garden- Planting complete. DPW mulching, filling voids and repairing arbor. Getting city water to property a challenge due to historic stone wall. Trench drains equally as challenging. A “huge” thank you to be sent to the OSC and DPW for all their efforts, help and assistance!

New Business:

- Land Use Committee Report- Dave Sharkey: DD application withdrawn
- Shade Tree Committee Report -Dave Sharkey: Shade trees being planted along RT 24 and on Heather Hill. Diverse selection of specimen trees being used.
- Planning Board Report- no report
- Board of Adjustment Report- Brennan Reilly: DD application withdrawn
- Open Space Report- Peter Barry: Scott Barn survey performed by Elise with Elise providing written report with recommendations to OSC. OSC budget has been directed for Mudhole Dam repair.
- Pending Applications for review- No Applications
- Tranquility Garden Installation- Elise/Jennifer: Plantings complete. \$25 remain for potential plant identification markers. Marian is working on a “piece” for publication! The Council continues to view the garden as a “walk to,” (aka, “Pocket Park.”) We need to think along the lines of promoting “mindful,” tranquil activities such as Yoga, or “unplugged” performances in a serene setting. The recently completed planting creates a defined stage/area for such activities to take place.

- Loop trail-Marion: Marion is discouraged by the impasse of the proposed Loop Trail due to the need to cross major thoroughfares...aka RT 24, Hilltop Road, etc.. At our next meeting, we will review the map in hopes of determining potential “Loop Quadrants,” created by the major axis of the Borough by State and County roads.
- ½ Earth Day October 21, 2017: Marion submitted a “wonderful” article to the Observer Tribune promoting the Event. Lisa Smith posted on the Mendham Borough Facebook Page. Bags, gloves and shirts have been provided by DPW and Raritan Headwaters. We need to tally participants, bags collected and tonnage for DPW.
- Styrofoam recycling December 30th, 2017
- Mendham “Celebration Day” June 28th, 2018
- Highlands review: Next meeting we will discuss reviewing the language of the Highlands Masterplan under the auspices of potential impact on Mendham Borough. Through review, we might better determine language potentially beneficial, or detrimental to future Land Use and Planning. With such knowledge we might better propose ordinances sympathetic to the goals of the Highlands benefitting all.
- “Tinker Garden”: Brennan mentioned a Mendham Township program wherein children are encouraged to take part in an “outdoor classroom” environment where they learn to explore and “get their feet wet.” This is something the MBEC would like to discuss further how to promote similar programming in the Borough.
- Business synergy: Brennan suggested reaching out to local businesses on future projects for material supplies suggesting potential naming/signage opportunities.
- Paula discussed a program at Tanglewood that could be replicated in the Borough and its environs: [Tanglewood Takes Flight](#). The event was a synergy between the BSO and the Mass Audubon Society using mixing natural sounds with those of the symphony.
- Open Space Inventory: We need to work with the OSC to develop a map of Mendham Borough’s and neighboring Town’s Open Space, promoting and cross-promoting programming for passive recreation.

Public Comment:

Adjournment: 8:45pm