

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REGULAR MEETING
Monday April 7, 2025
Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

The Regular meeting of the Mendham Borough ECOSST was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and the open public meeting statement was read into the record.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Arena	Present	Mr. Foerster	Present
Ms. Mundy	Absent	Mr. D'Agostino	Absent@ 7:38
Mr. Metzler	Present	Mr. Morris	Absent
Ms. Herrick	Present	Mr. D'Urso	Absent
Mr. Tracy	Absent		

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Ms. Herrick and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of March 3, 2025, meeting as submitted.

ROLL CALL

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, and Ms. Herrick

Opposed:

Abstain: Mr. Foerster

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Arena opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda.

There being none, public comment was closed.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER ITEMS

- a. Trout Unlimited-
 - i. Mr. Bayard, Conservation Coordinator and Mr. Peters, President of the Hacklebarney Chapter of Trout Unlimited summarized the proposal to do 3 phases of improvements at India Brook
 1. Phase 1- June and July they are proposing the removal of invasive plants
 2. Phase 2 – Planting of native trees and shrubs.
 - ii. Copy of the presentation of the proposed project is attached.

Motion by Mr. Foerster, seconded by and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the project proposed by Trout Unlimited and Resolution with the addition of plantings of native trees, shrubs and grasses. *WHEREAS, more specifically, Trout Unlimited has requested that the Borough authorize Trout Unlimited to remove invasive plant species from the riparian buffer zone between India Brook and the road, grant permission for Trout Unlimited to install educational and informational signs at key locations to inform the public about the restoration project, its benefits, and ongoing conservation efforts, and authorize the Department of Public Works support to assist with the removal and disposal of plant debris following invasive species removal efforts; plantings of native trees, shrubs and grasses and authorize the Department of Public Works support to assist with the plantings.*

ROLL CALL

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Ms. Herrick, Mr. Foerster, and Mr. D'Agostino

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion carried

- a. Eagle Scout Joseph Carangelo summarized his proposal to install a kiosk by the Carraige House, 2 planters by the tennis court entrance and 1-2 benches to be built and installed at the Arboretum in Borough Park. Joseph explained that he was receiving funding from the Legion. After discussion, ECOSST approved the installation of the kiosk at a location to be determined at a later date.

Motion by Ms. Herrick, seconded by Mr. Metzler and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the project proposed by Eagle Scout Joseph Carangelo to build and install a kiosk at a location to be determined in Borough Park by ECOSST at a later date.

ROLL CALL

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Ms. Herrick, Mr. Foerster, and Mr. D'Agostino

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Work Groups Reports
 - i. Open Space / Farmland Preserve
 - i) No Updates
 - ii. Environmental
 - i) No Updates
 - iii. Shade Tree
 - i) Mr. Foerster explained that they are still looking for places to plant trees.

PROJECT GROUP REPORT

- a. **Scott Farm**
 - i. No Updates
- b. **Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program/Publicity/Events**
 - i. Raritan Headwaters 35th Annual Stream Cleanup – April 12th
- c. **Service Projects (Scout Liaison)**
 - i. No Updates
- d. **Trails**
 - i. Ms. Herrick explained that she is putting together a list of trails and Mr. Arena asked if the trails can be put on a map. Ms. Herrick requested a map that would be clear enough to put the information on. Ms. Smith will look into.
- e. **Methodist Church Property**
 - i. No Updates
- f. **Joint Land Use Board**

- i. No Updates
- g. **Council Updates**
 - i. No Updates

ADJOURNMENT

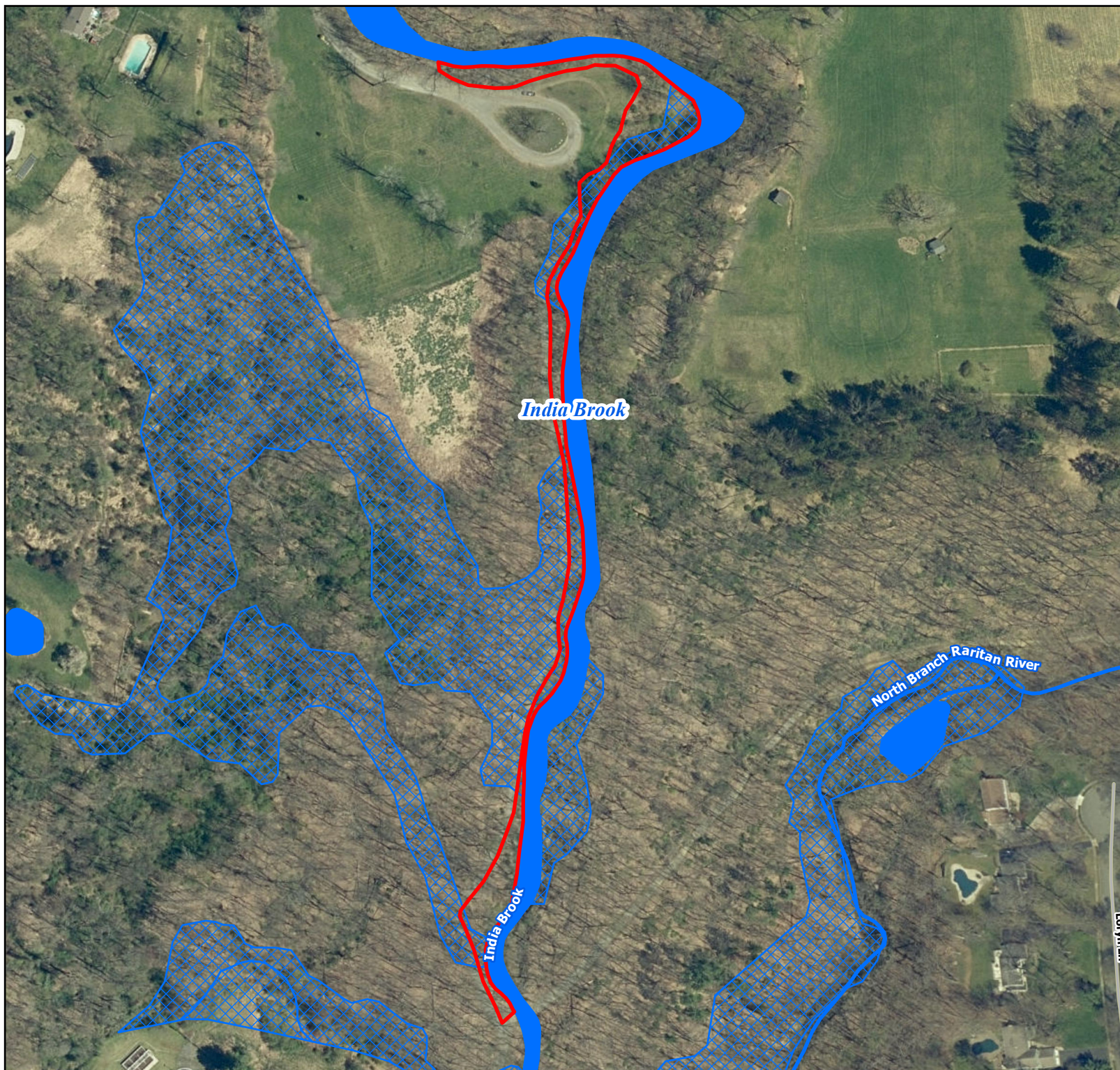
Motion by Mr. Mr. Metzler, seconded by Ms. Herrick and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator

**Hacklebarney TU
India Brook
Restoration**

Legend

-  Waterbody
-  Stream
-  Wetlands
-  Treatment Area



0 50 100 150 200 250 300 Feet

India Brook Restoration Project Proposal

Prepared by Henry Bayard
Hacklebarney TU Chapter
March 2025



India Brook Park Bank Restoration: Goals

- **Project goal:**

- *To preserve and enhance India Brook trout cold water habitat in a sustainable manner and promote trout continuation.*
- India Brook is a C1 trout stream.
- India Brook is unique among trout streams in northern New Jersey to support both native and wild trout.
- *Make the project a joint community and Trout Unlimited activity.*





India Brook Restoration Project: Scope

1. India Brook physical scope of project

- India Brook Park location; 270 mountain side road, Borough of Mendham
- Restoration focus on riparian buffer between park circle road and patriot's path, bounded by road/path and India brook.
- (see restoration map)

2. India Brook is at *risk* due to factors intensified by **climate change**.

- **Flooding**
- **Human encroachment**
- **Tree diseases**
- **Deer Over-browsing**



India Brook Restoration Project: strategies

Creating a sustainable habitat for trout in India Brook to **support biodiversity** while enhancing recreational fishing. The India Brook restoration plan would address these needs:

1. Improving Water Quality and Temperature

- **Riparian Buffers:** Establish or expand native riparian buffers with deep-rooted vegetation like trees and shrubs. These shade the water, keeping it cooler, and help filter out pollutants and excess nutrients from runoff.
- **Erosion and Sediment Control:** Add vegetation and stabilize eroding banks possibly using coir logs, live stakes, and root wads.

2. Habitat Enhancement for Trout

- **Instream Structures:** Place large woody debris, root wads, and rocks to create riffles, pools, and runs. Trout use these structures for shelter and feeding, and riffles oxygenate the water.
- **Boulder Clusters and Log Vanes:** Position boulders and log vanes to direct flow, creating slower pools where trout can rest and feed and faster, oxygen-rich runs.

3. Temperature and Oxygen Monitoring

- **Shade and Flow:** Keep an eye on water temperatures and flow rates, especially in warmer months.



India Brook Restoration Project: strategies continued

4. Community Engagement and Stewardship

- Educate local stakeholders about trout habitat requirements and how restoration efforts can enhance trout populations.
- Engage volunteers in monitoring and maintenance, such as cleaning up stream beds, removal of invasive plants, annual stream trash removal and monitoring fish health and populations post-restoration.

5. Long-Term Monitoring

- Set up routine fish population surveys, water quality assessments, and visual inspections to track the brook's response to restoration. This can guide adaptive management, helping the project evolve as needed for optimal habitat health.

These actions will improve stream health, benefiting both trout and other aquatic species while helping create a sustainable, self-regulating ecosystem.



India Brook Restoration: Phases and Funding

Timeline	Supplier	Activity	Time Frame	Funding
Phase 1	New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team	Removal of invasive plants	Spring 2025	Trout Unlimited
Phase 2	TroutScapes/ Hacklebarney TU	Tree planting-120 native trees	Fall 2025	Trout Unlimited Conservation Organizations
Phase 3	TroutScapes/Rippled Waters/Hacklebarney TU	stream bed restoration & enhancements	Spring of 2026	TBD



India Brook Restoration: Maintenance

1. Routine Habitat Maintenance

- **Vegetation and Riparian Buffer Care:** Regularly inspect riparian plantings along the stream banks, replacing any damaged or dead plants. Native plants may require periodic watering in the early stages and protection from pests (e.g., deer).
- **Invasive Species Control:** Monitor for invasive plants that may out compete native species. Implement bi-annual or annual invasive species removal, focusing on preventing seed spread and root establishment.
- **Bank Stabilization Check-ups:** Inspect banks and erosion control structures (e.g., coir logs, live stakes) after heavy rains and during seasonal high flows. Reinforce or replace structures if they become damaged or destabilized.
- **Ongoing Water Quality Testing:** Conduct regular tests (monthly or quarterly) for dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and any pollutants or excess nutrients that could impact trout habitat quality.



India Brook Restoration: Phase I Assistance

India Brook Restoration Project – Requests to the Borough of Mendham

The India Brook Restoration Project respectfully requests the following approvals and assistance from the Borough of Mendham to support the restoration and long-term health of India Brook and its riparian buffer:

1.Approval for the Removal of Invasive Plants

1. Authorization to remove invasive plant species from the riparian buffer zone between India Brook and the road,

2.Approval for India Brook Restoration Signs

1. Permission to install educational and informational signs at key locations to inform the public about the restoration project, its benefits, and ongoing conservation efforts.

3.Assistance with Debris Removal

1. Support from the Department of Public Works (DPW) to assist with the removal and disposal of plant debris following invasive species removal efforts.

We appreciate the Borough's continued support in restoring and preserving this critical cold-water habitat.

India Brook Project: Technical Advisory Board

Consultant	Company	Expertise	Role
Robert Lucas	Raritan Headwaters Association	Restoration	Consultant
Mike Van Clef, PHD.	New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team	Invasive Plant removal & ecological Solutions	Consultant/Supplier
Jean Epiphan	Rutgers Cooperative, Morris County Extension	Agriculture & Natural Resources agent, Assistant Professor Rutgers, ISA Certified Arborist, Lic. Tree Expert (#692)	Consultant
Jill Ott & Team	Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services	Restoration, Forestry, Water Conservation	Consultant/Supplier
Mary Paist-Goldman	Rippled Waters Engineering, LLC	Water Engineering and Conservation	Consultant/Supplier

