

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REGULAR MEETING
Monday August 4, 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 |
| Mr. Metzler | Present | Mr. Morris | Present |
| Ms. Herrick | Present | Mr. D'Urso | Absent |
| Mr. Tracy | Absent | | |

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Foerster, seconded by Ms. Herrick and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of May 5, 2025, meeting as submitted.

ROLL CALL

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

Opposed:

Abstain: Mr. Metzler and Mr. Morris

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

Mr. Morris introduced Eagle Scout Kaushal and explained that he will be doing a presentation for an Eagle Scout project.

Eagle Scout Kaushal explained his project to install 2 benches at India Brook where people could sit and watch the environment and will be calling the project "The Bench Effect".

Mr. Foerster suggested selecting a bench that will be used on all projects throughout town.

Motion by Mr. Foerster, seconded by Ms. Herrick and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the Eagle Scout project meeting as submitted.

ROLL CALL

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

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion carried

Mr. Morris introduced another Eagle Scout that may be doing an Eagle Scout project regarding the trails. The Eagle Scout asked to work with Ms. Herrick mapping the trails in town. Ms. Herrick is to email Eagle Scout with details.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Work Groups Reports
 - i. Open Space / Farmland Preserve
 - i) No Updates
 - ii. Environmental
 - i) Mr. Metzler explained that there were a couple of JLUB applications that had no environmental impact.
 - iii. Shade Tree
 - i) Mr. Foerster explained that there were 30 trees for the Spring planting, and they are starting on preparations for the Fall planting.

PROJECT GROUP REPORT

- a. **Scott Farm**
 - i. Mr. Arena noted that the County approved \$305,000 for Phase 2 at the Scott Farm barn.
- b. **Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program/Publicity/Events**
 - i. Mr. Foerster stated that he saw that the American Legion in Chester did a cleanup and had food for the participants and asked if this was something that the Borough could do.
- c. **Service Projects (Scout Liaison)**
 - i. No Updates
- d. **Trails**
 - i. Ms. Herrick had a survey placed in the Messenger and there were no new trails discovered.
- e. **Borough Park Arboretum**
 - i. No Updates
- f. **Joint Land Use Board**
 - i. No Updates
- g. **Council Updates**
 - i. No Updates
- h. **India Brook**
 - i. Mr. Arena explained that the company sprayed the invasives twice and DPW will be brush hogging the area and trees and shrubs will be planted in October.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator

Eagle Scout Service “The Bench Effect” Project

ECOSST Meeting
Aug 4 2025

By: Kabir Kaushal
Life Scout, Troop 130

This could be written on a plaque to
be placed by the bench.

Fun fact

There's a Cognitive Science Term Called “The Bench Effect”

“The Bench Effect” refers to the calming or reflective state people enter when they sit on a park bench alone, watching the world go by—boosting creativity and mood.

Details

Eagle Scout Candidate Name: Kabir Kaushal

Project Title: The Bench Effect

Project Location Name : India Brook Park, Mountainside Road, Mendham

Project Beneficiary: Mendham community, park visitors

Project timeframe: Aug - Oct 2025

Project Scope

The purpose of my Eagle Scout service project is to enhance India Brook Park by installing 2 permanent benches to provide rest areas for park visitors. The benches will be placed in carefully chosen locations that offer scenic views, shade, or access to nearby walking paths, improving the overall park experience for the community.

The scope also includes clean up of the existing bench in the park.

Since this is an Eagle Project, the bench construction will be a DIY effort, with other Scouts participating as volunteers.

DIY Bench Style 1



Specifications

- Seat/Back: Wood
- Frame: Cast Iron
- Dimensions:
 - L - 72 inches
 - W - 25 inches
 - H - 31 inches
- Elegant, sleek design and eco-friendly
- Anchored/concrete
- Durable maintenance
- Chairs load-bearing - 600 lbs.

Price - \$90 (for frame only)

Details can be found [here](#)

DIY Bench Style 2



Specifications

- Seat/Back: Wood
- Frame: high-quality alloy metal
- Dimensions:
 - L - 59 inches
 - W - 21 inches
 - H - 28 inches
- Elegant, sleek design and eco-friendly
- Anchored/concrete
- Durable maintenance
- Chairs load-bearing - 600 lbs

Price - \$260 (all included)

Details can be found [here](#)

Placement of Bench A



Bench is facing the road; Bench style 1 has been used in the picture,

Placement of Bench B



Bench is facing the road/stream; bench style 2 has been used the picture

Refurbish existing Bench C



This bench will be refurbished and the effort will involve cleaning, sanding, painting/staining, and repairing damaged parts of the benches. The goal is to restore the bench for safe, attractive, and long-term community use.

Estimated timeline

- Approvals: August
- Sourcing Materials & Project planning: September
- Installation: Weekend in October
- Final report & board review: After

Thank you

Questions?