

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REORGANIZATION/REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 5, 2026
Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

The Reorganization/ 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.

*****REORGANIZATION*****

ROLL CALL

Mr. Arena	Present	Mr. Tracy	Absent
Ms. Mundy	Absent	Mr. Foerster	Present
Mr. Metzler	Present	Mr. D'Agostino	Absent
Ms. Herrick	Present	Mr. Morris	Present

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

CHAIR

Motion made to nominate Mr. Arena as Chairman by Ms. Herrick and seconded by Mr. Metzler. There being no further nominations, a single ballot was cast, and Mr. Arena was designated Chairman.

VICE CHAIR

Motion made to nominate Mr. Metzler as Vice Chairman by Mr. Arena and seconded by Mr. Arena. There being no further nominations, a single ballot was cast, and Mr. Foerster was designated Vice Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tabled until the February 2, 2026 meeting

RESOLUTIONS:

MEETING DATES

Motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Foerster and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt a resolution (as outlined herein) setting forth the meeting dates for 2026 and the first meeting of 2027.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

The resolution follows.

*ECOSST
BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL, OPEN SPACE, & SHADE TREE (ECOSST)
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY*

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SETTING THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, OPEN SPACE & SHADE TREE OF THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM CALENDAR YEAR 2026

BE IT RESOLVED that that at its Regular and Reorganization Meeting held on January 5, 2026, the Environmental Commission, Open Space Committee and Shade Tree Commission known as the Joint ECOSST Commission of the Borough of Mendham established regularly scheduled meetings for the year 2026 as follows:

- Monday, January 5, 2026 (Previously Advertised)
- Monday, February 2
- Monday, March 2
- Monday, April 6
- Monday, May 4
- Monday, June 1
- Monday, July 6
- Monday, August 3
- Tuesday, September 8
- Monday, October 5
- Monday, November 2
- Monday, December 7

The regular and reorganization meeting for 2027 will be held on January 4, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the meetings will be held at 7:30 PM at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson St, Mendham, NJ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED During a declared state of emergency, when meetings of ECOSST are held remotely, the public may attend remotely by Zoom. Instructions on how to participate in a meeting via Zoom will be posted on the meeting's schedule webpage on the Borough's website in advance of the meeting and in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of any additions to the above schedule or change in the time, date or place of any scheduled meeting will be maintained in the Phoenix House, 2 West Main St., Mendham, NJ for purposes of public inspection, and will be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and delivered to the official newspapers in advance as required by law.

Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator

Dated: _____

Chair, ECOSST

Land Use Coordinator

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Metzler and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt a resolution (as outlined herein) recognizing the Star Ledger and The Daily Record as the official newspapers of the Commission for 2026.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

The resolution follows.

**BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL, OPEN SPACE, & SHADE TREE (ECOSST)
MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Environmental Commission, Open Space Committee and Shade Tree Commission known as the Joint ECOSST Commission of the Borough of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey for 1975, known as and hereinafter designated as the “Open Public Meetings Act” aforesaid, Joint ECOSST Commission of the Borough of Mendham hereby makes the following designations:

1. The Star Ledger and the Daily Record are hereby designated as the two newspapers to receive notice of meetings required by any and all sections of the Open Public Meetings Act, it appearing that said newspapers are most likely to inform the local public of such meetings. Notices required by the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law or the Borough’s Land Use Regulations may be placed, as required by law, in either of the designated newspapers.
2. Notice of this meeting of the ECOSST Commission of the Borough of Mendham shall be posted and maintained in the Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ for purposes of public inspection, and will be filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act
3. The sum of \$12.00 per year is hereby fixed as the amount paid by any person requesting individual notice of meetings as provided in Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dated: January 5, 2026

Chairman, ECOSST

ATTEST:

Land Use Coordinator

*****REGULAR MEETING*****

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Foerster, and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of the December 1, 2025, meeting as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed:

Abstain: Mr. Morris

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Work Groups Reports
 - 1) Open Space / Farmland Preserve
 - a) No Updates.
 - 2) Environmental
 - a) No Updates
 - 3) Shade Tree
 - a) No Updates
- B. Project Group Report
 - 1) Scott Farm
 - i. No Updates
 - 2) Service Projects (Scout Liaison)
 - i. Mr. Arena noted that 2 Scouts have been in contact to place benches at India Brook and help with trail mapping.
 - 3) Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program
 - i. Mr. Arena stated that there was not as much as previous years collected

- 4) Trails
 - i. Ms. Herrick stated that she will be meeting with a Scout to help the mapping of trails.
- 5) Borough Park Arboretum
 1. No updates
- 6) Joint Land Use Board
 - i. No Updates.
- 7) Council Updates
 - i. No Updates
- 8) India Brook
 - i. No Updates

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mr. Peters and Mr. Bayard from Hacklebarney Trout Unlimited gave a presentation on Phase III of the India Brook Restoration Project. Presentation attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. Weisman- 15 TempeWick Rd. –

- Suggested the Committee do more outreach
- Suggesting that more trees be planted on Open Space Property
- Suggested outdoor composting
- Questioned the status of the path
- Suggested adding trail cleaning events

There being no further comments, the public session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Herrick, seconded by Mr. Foerster, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator

India Brook Restoration Project

Phase III

In-Stream Restoration



Partners: Hacklebarney Trout Unlimited & Borough of Mendham

India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Introduction

- C1-designated cold-water trout stream
- Phase I: hazard mitigation, awareness, **invasive plant removal**
- Phase II: signage, technical review, habitat assessments, **planting of native trees & shrubs**
- Phase III: stabilize stream, restore habitat, improve resilience

Project Overview

- Builds on Phases I & II achievements
- Restores ecological function, stream flow, and cold-water habitat
- Enhances riffles, pools, removes obstructions
- Strengthens riparian buffer with native vegetation
- **Design by Rippled Waters; construction by Trout Scapes**

India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Why Phase III Is Needed

- **Erosion threatening banks, trees, infrastructure**
- Sediment buildup reduces depth & oxygen for trout/insects
- **Storm/flood damage compromises habitat**
- Riparian buffer gaps increase runoff
- **Phase III completes high-value restoration**

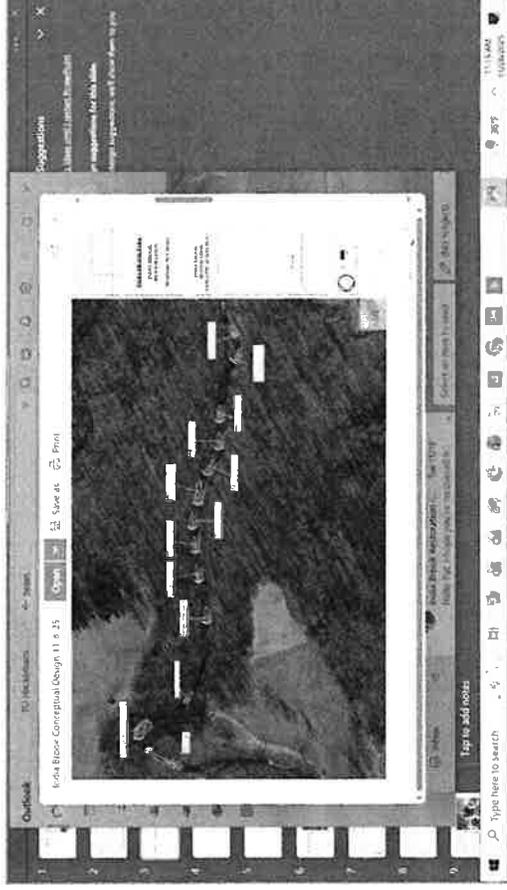


India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

India Brook Conceptual Design

Phase III Restoration Scope

- Streambank stabilization & erosion control
- Desnagging & sediment removal
- **Streambed habitat enhancements (riffles, pools)**
- Riparian buffer restoration
- **Flood resilience improvements**



India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Technical Leadership: Rippled Waters Engineering

- **Ecological assessment and stream evaluation to guide restoration priorities**
- Restoration design and habitat planning for trout, macroinvertebrates, and riparian health
- Hydrology modeling and analysis to ensure long-term stream stability.
- Coordination with Borough of Mendham for access and compliance.
- **Management of regulatory permitting, including NJDEP FHA/FWW approvals.**
- **Preparation and submission of materials for Morris County Soil Conservation District approval.**
- Engineering and planning of in-stream habitat structures designed for resilience to storm events and climate impacts.

Technical Leadership: Trout Scapes Construction

- Trout Scapes is the lead contractor for in-stream restoration at India Brook.
- Specializes in natural stream channel design and construction.
- Provides bank stabilization and erosion control to protect the riparian corridor.
- Enhances streambed habitat for trout, aquatic insects, and other wildlife.
- **Implements proven ecological restoration techniques to strengthen the C1 cold-water habitat.**
- **Supports long-term sustainability of native and wild trout populations.**
- Ensures high-quality habitat improvements that integrate with these

India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Project Funding

- Hacklebarney TU,
- Trout Unlimited
- Grants from NGO;s
- In-Kind support Borough of Mendham
- In-Kind support Raritan Headwaters Association

Partnerships

- Hacklebarney Trout Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited (National)
- Borough of Mendham
- Raritan Headwaters Association
- Community College of Morris
- Morris Vocational Students
- Master Gardeners
- Adjacent private landowner

India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Education, Youth & Community Engagement

Embedded in **Community College
of Morris Environmental
Studies curriculum**

Integrated into youth
**conservation programs at
Morris Vocational School**

Student-led data collection &
stream monitoring (RHA
supervision)

CCM & Vocational students:
planting, invasive removal,
assessments

Master Gardeners assist with
native plantings

Volunteer events for residents
& families



India Brook Restoration

Project Post-Implementation Phase Monitoring

- **Annual stream assessments (temperature, habitat, macroinvertebrates) conducted with oversight from Raritan Headwaters Association.**
- Maintenance of planted riparian buffers.
- RHA and NJ DEP will have access to historic and ongoing monitoring data stored at CCM.
- Adaptive management: adjustments based on ecological response.
- Ongoing partnership between Hacklebarney TU, Borough, and local schools and Master

Technical Advisory Board Members

- Oversight for Phase III planning & implementation
- Experts in: fisheries, riparian ecology, stream engineering, environmental education
- **Review plans, methods, & monitoring protocols**
- Ensure long-term sustainability

India Brook Restoration – Benefits to the Borough of Mendham

Environmental & Ecological

- Restores and protects C1 cold-water trout stream
- Improves water quality and reduces sedimentation
- **Strengthens streambanks and riparian buffer**
- Enhances habitat for trout, insects, birds, and wildlife
- **Increases resilience to climate-driven storm events**

Community & Recreation

- Enhances India Brook Park's Park's natural beauty
- Improves safe public access to access to paths and stream stream areas
- **Creates educational opportunities for students and families**
- Supports community involvement and stewardship stewardship
- **Builds local pride in conservation and outdoor recreation**

Infrastructure & Long-Term Value

- Protects trails, bridges, and park infrastructure from erosion
- **Reduces future maintenance and repair costs**
- Leverages grants, partner support, and volunteer labor
- **Protects property values with a healthier waterway**
- Strengthens Borough leadership in climate resilience

India Brook Restoration Project - Phase III

Request for Borough Council Approval

- Formal approval to proceed with Phase III construction
- All planning, design, & partnerships in place
- Critical step to complete India Brook restoration

Ecological Benefits:

- Restored trout & aquatic insect habitat
- Stabilized streambanks & improved flood resilience
- Enhanced riparian buffer & biodiversity

