

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 2, 2021
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. Sprandel	Present
Ms. Barber	Present via phone	Mr. Foerster	Absent
Ms. Mundy	Present	Mr. Pace	Present
Ms. Golier	Absent	Mr. Wells	Absent
Mr. Metzler	Present		

Also Present: Steve Andrew, Borough Council Liaison
Brennan Reilly, Borough Council Liaison

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MINUTES:

Chairman Arena asked for comments on the minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2021 . There being no corrections, Ms. Mundy made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Mr. Sprandel seconded.

ROLL CALL

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Ms. Barber, Ms. Mundy, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Sprandel and Mr. Pace.
Opposed:
Abstain:

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Work Groups Reports
 1. Open Space / Farmland Preserve
 - a. Mr. Sprandel had no new updates.
 2. Environmental
 - a. Ms. Barber will be reviewing applications.
 3. Shade Tree
 - a. No updates
2. ECOSST Project Group Report
 - a) United Methodist Church
 - (i) Mr. Arena stated that there were no updates.
 - (ii) Mr. Andrew stated that he has not heard anything.
 - (iii) Mr. Reilly stated that he felt it was moving forward. Mr. Sprandel asked if there was any negotiations and Mr. Reilly stated that he feels like that was the discussion.

b) Scott Farm

- (i) Mr. Arena explained that the Eagle Scout has completed the trail and the signs are up and has signed off on his project for Eagle Scouts. Mr. Arena suggested asking the Council if they can advertise the trail in the Messenger with a map of the trail. Mr. Arena asked that Mr. Andrew and Mr. Reilly find out if that is something that can be done. Mr. Reilly stated that an Eagle Scout was recognized at the last Council meeting and suggested someone contact the Mayor and ask if she would like to do a formal recognition of this project and the Eagle Scout. Mr. Reilly suggested that the Eagle Scout should compose something to give to the Mayor and Mr. Arena stated that he would relay that to the Eagle Scout.
- (ii) Mr. Arena spoke of the meeting with the County regarding the stabilization of the Scott Farm barn as well as the restoration of the Phoenix House. Mr. Arena felt that the County was excited about both projects but asked which one was a priority. It was stated that the Phoenix House would be the priority. The Borough will reapply for the Scott Farm Barn next year.
- (iii) Mr. Arena read Ms. Barber's notes regarding Scott Farm. Ms. Barber spoke with Mr. Neff regarding not mowing the field between June and August, which has already been brought to the attention of the DPW. Mr. Arena went on to read that Mr. Neff and the Audubon would be happy to do an educational program once the Barn is stabilized. Ms. Barber is going to the Scott Farm and identify the types of flowering plants that attract pollinators and collect milkweed from where she hikes in the Berkshires and spread at the farm prior to the final mowing.

c) Projects

- (i) Mr. Reilly stated that there is an Eagle Scout that is looking for a project. Mr. Reilly suggested a kiosk at India Brook like the one at Buttermilk Falls. Mr. Reilly would like ECOSST to look into different projects. Mr. Arena stated that a project group should be formed to make a list.

Mr. Reilly read an update on the United Methodist Church property. Mr. Reilly stated that the Morris County Open Space grant for 1.5 acres for the fire station / UMC site was approved for \$220,000. Mr. Reilly also read that the UMC unanimously agreed to sell to the Borough. The Borough attorney will contact the church attorney to review acquisition. Ms. Mundy asked Mr. Reilly if there was any plan for the use of that site and Mr. Reilly stated that ECOSST is to form a work group. Mr. Reilly stated that a representative from Council will need to sit on that group.

d) Rowe Sheep Farm

- (i) Mr. Arena asked Ms. Smith to give an update. Ms. Smith stated that there was an application for historic markers and the wording was put together by the Borough Planner. Mr. Arena asked if the wording was approved by Mr. Rowe. Mr. Reilly stated that it was two separate things. Mr. Andrew stated that the wording was being taken care of by the County. Mr. Reilly stated that there are two different things. Mr. Reilly stated that this is the Historic Marker Program through Morris County and there is the marker that ECOSST will be doing like one across from Hilltop Church and the Garabrant Center.

e) Connector Trail from Patriots Path to Shopping Center

- (i) Mr. Arena stated that this was a project that he believes the Council will look at again next year and asked the Council members if they can shed any light on the

subject. Mr. Reilly stated that Mr. Ferriero, Borough Engineer felt that there wasn't enough time to get the information together to submit the application and felt that sometime in September the group could start getting information together for the next round. Mr. Arena asked if there was anything about the project that would cause the group not to bring it back in from of the Council and Mr. Reilly stated that there are some concerns with the project because of easements and other issues. Mr. Arena asks that Mr. Wells be a part of the discussion when the subject is brought back up. Mr. Reilly suggested contacting Ms. Bushman, Borough Administrator and setting up a meeting with Mr. Ferriero, Mr. Wells and to include Mr. Reilly so that a discussion can be had regarding the project.

- f) Bike Swap
 - (i) No Update

- g) Composting
 - (i) Mr. Arena explained that this subject was brought up in the past and the high school was not willing to participate, and someone had concern of bears but would like to revisit the idea. Mr. Reilly suggested partnering with the Township since they are on septic and makes more sense for them to do composting and the Township is more set up to do educational series. Mr. Reilly suggested contacting Ms. Budd from DPW regarding purchasing compost bins with recycling grant funds and offer them to the community. Mr. Arena suggested Ms. Mundy reach out to the Township to see if they do anything with composting.
- h) Farmers Market
 - (i) Mr. Arena sent the Mayor an email to see what her thoughts are on this.

3. Events Calendar

- (a) Ms. Budd is setting up the March 2022 shred date and will let ECOSST know once it is finalized.
- (b) Ms. Budd is going to use Clean Communities money to purchase a large quantity of reusable bags to distribute at shred day and other events due to the plastic bag ban.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER ITEMS:

Mr. Sprandel noticed the DPW at Borough Park doing mowing and weed whacking and pointed out that the noise from the machines was very loud. Mr. Sprandel asked if was appropriate to make a recommendation to the Borough Council to purchase a more green and quieter solution when it comes time to replace what they have now to reduce the noise pollution. Mr. Sprandel also suggested incentives for the residents to go green by converting their weed whackers and mowers to electric. Ms. Mundy has a flyer from ANJEC that she will share with the group regarding this subject. Mr. Reilly stated that residents have come to Council asking for a ban on 2 stroke engines and Mr. Reilly is not a fan of banning. Mr. Reilly said that he can speak with Mr. Kelly regarding if there is an alternative but that being said that when the DPW is running the equipment, they are running them all day and the amount of batteries need would be astronomical but there may be other lower decibel alternatives.

Mr. Reilly suggested that ECOSST put together a list of projects that they would like to do prior to the budgeting process such as signs for Mt. Valley “Mud Hole”, India Brook, etc. like the ones that are at Botti field and Borough Park to standardize the parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Arena opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda. There being none, Chairman Arena closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Sprandel, seconded by Mr. Metzler and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 7:30PM at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, NJ.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator