

**MINUTES OF THE
MENDHAM BOROUGH ECOSST
REORGANIZATION/REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 8, 2024
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. Morris	Present
Ms. Mundy	Absent	Mr. Tracy	Present
Mr. Metzler	Present		
Mr. Wells	Present		
Mr. Foerster	Present		

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

CHAIR

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

APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Metzler was appointed.

RESOLUTIONS:

MEETING DATES

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Wells and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt a resolution (as outlined herein) setting forth the meeting dates for 2024 and the first meeting of 2025.

Roll Call:

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Wells, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Foerster, and Mr. Morris.

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion Carried

The resolution follows.

RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION SETTING THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, OPEN SPACE & SHADE TREE OF THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

BE IT RESOLVED that that at its Regular and Reorganization Meeting held on January 8, 2024, 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 2024 as follows:

- Tuesday, January 8, 2024
- Monday, February 5
- Monday, March 4
- Monday, April 1
- Monday, May 6
- Wednesday, June 5
- Monday, July 1
- Monday, August 5
- Tuesday, September 3
- Monday, October 7
- Wednesday, November 6
- Monday, December 2
- Monday, January 6, 2025

The regular and reorganization meeting for 2025 will be held on January 6, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the meetings will be held at 7:30PM 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 attend a meeting via Zoom will be posted on the meetings 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. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Tracy 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 2024.

Roll Call:

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Wells, Mr. Tracy, 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 2024**

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 to paid by any person requesting individual notice of meetings as provided in Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dated: January 8, 2024

Chairman, ECOSST

ATTEST:

Land Use Coordinator

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

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Wells and unanimously carried by voice vote to adopt the Minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting, as presented.

Roll Call:

In Favor: Mr. Arena, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Wells, Mr. Tracy, and Mr. Foerster.

Opposed:

Abstain: Mr. Morris

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Work Groups Reports

1) Open Space / Farmland Preserve

a) Mr. Wells stated that he has updated the potential open spaces last year and will relay to Council.

2) Environmental

a) No Updates

3) Shade Tree

a) Mr. Foerster explained that there were plantings at the ballfield done because some existing trees are in decline. Mr. Foerster noted that a tree inventory is in the process of being completed. Mr. Arena explained to Councilman Sullivan that an increase in the Shade Tree budget will be necessary to take down the dead and dying ash trees.

B. Project Group Report

- 1) Scott Farm
 - i. Mr. Arena explained that they are still waiting for the restoration funding to go through. Mr. Foerster asked if there were any further discussions about the planting of trees in the lower half of the property. Mr. Arena explained that they need to wait for the budget so that this area could be included in the planting schedule and also Scouts can plant whip trees in that area. Mr. Foerster suggested meeting and making an assessment.
- 2) Recycling/Clean Communities Outreach Program
 - i. Mr. Arena noted that the Styrofoam event was successful and has not received totals of what was collected from DPW.
 - ii. Mr. Arena stated that he has been speaking with Raritan Headwaters and would like to come up with an event to do in the Borough.
- 3) Service Projects (Scout Liaison)
 - i. Mr. Morris explained that there is a Scout project to install benches at Scott Farm should be finished in a week or so.
 - ii. Mr. Tracy stated that a Scout that may put in a loop trail at the Methodist Church property.
 - iii. Mr. Arena noted that a Scout asked about putting together pictures and history of parks and open space to be placed on the website for a project.
- 4) Trails
 - i. Mr. Wells noted that the DPW will be fixing the trail near Franklin and Coventry that was washed out.
 - ii. Mr. Wells questioned if the trail grant is being worked on and will contact Ms. Caldwell.
 - iii. Mr. Wells showed a map of the area at the Commons. There was discussion about not mowing a portion of the property. Mr. Wells will follow up to see if there is interest.
- 5) Methodist Church Property
 - i. Mr. Foerster asked if the ash trees were removed. Mr. Arena explained that the area was cleaned and DPW plans for the dead tree removal this winter, weather permitted.
- 6) Community Wildlife Habitat
 - i. No updates
- 7) Events Calendar
 - i. Paper and Tech Shredding- April 6, 2024 from 9 AM -1 PM.
 - ii. Possible Raritan Headwaters Event.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Morris asked if there are any other ways to advertise meetings. Mr. Arena suggested the Patch.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Arena opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments on items not included on the agenda. Mr. Van Den Hende, 11 Coventry Rd., suggested a digital sign with meeting dates. Ms. Herrick, 25 Franklin Rd., suggested a sign marking the Scott Farm property.

There being nothing further, the public session was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Metzler, seconded by Mr. Wells and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Smith
Land Use Coordinator