

MENDHAM BOROUGH OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES 7/12/2012

Meeting Location: Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ

1. Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Connolly, at 7:05 PM.
2. Mr. Connolly read the Adequate Notice Statement: Notice of this meeting was published in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 19, 2012 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Phoenix House on the same date in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. Roll Call:

George Connolly, Chair, Present
William DeBuvitz, Vice Chair, Absent
David Sprandel, Secretary, Present
John Andrus, Council Representative, Absent
Peter Barry, Present
Adam Slutsky, Present
Charles Topping, Present

Alternates:

Keith McNair, Present

4. Mr. Topping moved, Mr. Connolly seconded and the minutes for the meeting of May 10, 2012 were unanimously approved.
5. Public Comment – Mr. Connolly invited Matt Marino, a 16 year old candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout, to describe his proposed plans for improvements to Tranquility Garden. Mr. Marino provided a 6 page handout describing his plan, see attached for details. The plan lists 21 specific steps. He includes an estimated time to complete assuming a designated number of people contributing to each step. He also includes an overall list of materials which he will need to complete the project.

Some highlights:

- a. Remove ground cover and replace with mulch.
- b. Cleat the path under the arbor including roots; widen the path and use pea gravel to smoothen the path.
- c. Repair the arbor of broken boards and to paint the arbor white. Mr Topping commented that Matt confer with Janet Foster regarding the color of the paint on the arbor remembering the "target year" for the historic district is 1900. Mr.

O'Brian, of the Mendham Borough DPW, will be providing assistance in the removal of brush and debris from the site.

- d. Remove existing brick and construct a new brick path from the well to the path under the arbor. Expects to power wash existing brick to "clean it up". Mr. Topping suggested a "gentle" cleaning to avoid changing any historic value or the original patina of the brick.
- e. Labor. The typical Eagle Scout project is around 100 hours and Matt's estimate for implementation is around 230 hours. As Matt expects to be fully involved in the management of the implementation he is looking at members of his scout troop and his cross country team to provide much of the labor. He will welcome adult volunteers, too.
- f. Supplies. Looking for many of the supplies to be donated including mulch, brick and lumber. Tools to be provided by Matt, his volunteers and the Borough. For other expenses, see below. He will remove tools from the site overnight or make their on-site presence inconspicuous.

There were several comments congratulating Mr. Marino on his well thought out plans for the Tranquility Garden improvements. His level of preparation and maturity are really very impressive.

6. Old Business

- a. Tranquility Garden – Mr. Connolly reminded us that this committee had previously approved the allocation of \$15,000 for improvements to Tranquility Garden of which \$13,403 remains. Mr. Berry moved, Mr. Slutsky seconded and all approved that \$1000 of those remaining funds be allocated for improvements to the garden at the direction of Matt Marino.
- b. Borough Loop Trail – Mr. Slutsky reported that the results of the most recent grant application won't be available until November.
- c. Other – None.

7. New Business

- a. Update from the Borough Council – None.
- b. Other – Mendham Borough inquiring about access to the Sisters of Christian Charity's gym as a site for an emergency facility.

8. Adjournment – Mr. Sprandel moved, Mr. McNair seconded and all approved we adjourn at 8:40 PM.

- a. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9/13/2012, at 7:00PM.

