

2016 Annual Report

This year's goal was to create an awareness within our community the fact that our area is the source of three river systems, the Whippany, the Raritan, and the Passaic. The commission collaborated with other groups for the 3 River Festival. A stream clean-up and celebration of our rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The commission on a regular basis, has been publishing informational materials in the *Mendham Messenger*. Members also handed out printed materials at the annual stream clean -up event. These materials included tips on composting, disposal of hazardous waste, and storm water management. The commission continues to keep informational materials at the Phoenix House for interested residents.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Electronic recycling is now collected and recycled at weekly basis at the Department of Public Works yard. The Commission no longer needs to hold a yearly event since the service is available all year round. Also, it has been deemed costly due to the fluctuating market of these materials to hold this event. The commission will reassess this situation yearly.

EARTH DAY EVENTS

On April 16th, the commission worked with Raritan Headwaters, and the Mendham Township environmental commission to create the 3 Rivers Festival. It included poetry written by Hilltop students, an opening dance piece by Dani Galli, and displays by the Whippany, the Passaic, and Raritan Headwaters organizations as well as Schiff Natural Lands Trust. Volunteers picked up more than 20 bags of garbage. Among the volunteers were parents, children, members of girls scouts and cub scouts. The children enjoyed the rubber ducky race too. A rock band from the area played and kept the moment joyous.

BICYCLE RACKS

The commission received a \$2500.00 grant from the Morris Area Freewheelers Bicycle Club. Vintage bicycle racks were placed in the front of Sorrento's Pizza,

Robinson's Drug store and Van Dessel's bike shop. Hitches were placed at West field, the pond, the baseball field and basketball courts.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING

This year, the commission again worked with the township in bringing to fruition a Styrofoam recycling day on Dec. 28th. The commission collected 48 bags of clean foam. The DPW then brought the bagged material to Foam Pack in Springfield. Residents were very grateful for this service.

ASSISTANCE TO BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Environmental Commission kept the council apprised of the planning and the results of Earth Day and Arbor Day events by presenting progress reports to the council.

PLANNING BOARD

The Environmental Commission is awaiting an appointed liaison to our meetings from the planning board.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

A member of the Commission serves on the Open Space Committee and insures that environmental aspects of potential open space acquisitions are fully considered. It also worked the Borough Engineer to keep in compliance with the DEP regulations.

MEMBERSHIP

Peter Barry

John Dannenbaum

Laurie Felber - chairperson

Catherine Maresca - alternate

Marian Mundy- Hooper

Representation on Other Boards and Committees

Peter Barry – Open Space Committee

