



**Morristown Environmental Commission
2016 Annual Report**

In accordance with the ordinance that established the Commission, this will serve as our annual report to the public and Town Council. As of December 2016, the Commission was comprised as follows:

Members:	Maureen Denman, Chair	Steve Pylypchuk, Secretary, Vice Chair
	Rich Isleib, Treasurer	Justin Davis
	Nathan Umbriac	Justin Protasiewicz

Alternate Members: Priscilla Grigas and Marc Baumann

Town Council Liaison: Michelle Dupree Harris

We are very proud of the direction that our commission is headed. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to working with you in the future.

The Morristown Environmental Commission (MEC) generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Town Hall, unless posted in advance otherwise, to discuss matters relating to the environment and provide comments to the Town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment as appropriate. Throughout 2016, the MEC worked to promote sustainability efforts in Morristown through education, outreach and events, as well as the coordination of activities with other community organizations. Several sub-committees were created to streamline efforts and work on several different initiatives, based on individual preference and expertise. Our major activities and accomplishments for 2016 include:

Foote's Pond

- In April the Morristown Environmental Commission received a request from Mayor Tim Dougherty to provide recommendations regarding the proposed dredging of Foote's Pond. The MEC presented the first draft to the Town Council at the June 28th meeting. Town Administrator Jillian Barrick and Mayor Tim Dougherty authorized the acquisition of the consultants needed to assist with the review of the aforementioned. The MEC completed a study to determine the current uses of the pond & its impact on the residents of Morristown. A tracking log was created to document the observations made by the commissioners over the course of a 3 week period during the summer of 2016. A total of 21 hours was logged capturing everything from # of visitors observed and the activities noted. The commissioners documented the haven for wildlife observed at Foote's pond including over 20-species of birds as well as a number of species of turtles. A Consultant was hired to conduct the habitat suitability analysis & review the potential threat and endanger impact to wildlife at Fotes Pond and a second consultant was hired to perform a watershed & permitting overview of Foote's Pond to evaluate the stormwater management impacts of allowing the pond to continue to meadow.

In October the MEC presented our findings to the Town Council of Morristown & made the recommendation that further analyses in the form of a comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic study be performed to determine the pond's value as a stormwater attenuation measure and the affect it has on the lower portion of the watershed prior to implementing any of the suggested options from either Consultant. Subsequently, the Town and MEC applied for a grant through Sustainable Jersey and the PSE&G Foundation for a \$20,000 Grant is to offset the expense to conduct an 8-12 month comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of Footes Pond to make a more conclusive recommendation on the pond. The Town and MEC are currently in the process of drafting a formal RFQ and RFP for bid to contract the proposed 8-12 month comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic analyses of Footes Pond. The results of the 8-12 month study will be used to develop recommendations that may be used to help the Council and Administration to determine if the dredging of Foote's Pond is feasible and/or warranted.

Morristown Community Outreach

- Members of the Commission participated in Morristown's Annual Spring Clean Up on April 23rd
- A team from the MEC participated in the Morristown Annual Parks & Ponds Clean-Up on Sept. 24th
- The MEC participated in Morristown's Annual Fall Festival on Sept. 25th, sharing a booth with SUSMO (Sustainable Morristown) with a hands-on display featuring "Flushable wipes" to educate the community concerning the hazards of the wipes and the impact on the sewer system citing how they are destroying our municipal sewer system and overall environmental pollution.

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) Certification Training

- All new Commissioners attended ANJEC training in March 2016

Kleitman Woods at Hillcrest

- The MEC maintained communication & reporting updates with the Town Engineering team on the next steps for the completion of the preserved "Open Space" at the site known as Kleitman Woods on Hillcrest Avenue. Project expected to be completed by 2nd quarter of 2017.

Sustainable Jersey

- The Environmental Commission collaborated with Sustainable Morristown (SUSMO) to streamline efforts with Morristown's administration towards renewing Morristown's Sustainable NJ Bronze Certification in 2017

Pilgrim Pipeline

- The MEC continued to monitor the status of the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline which could along the Route 287 corridor. The Morristown Town Council passed a resolution in the fall of 2015 opposing the Pipeline and was one of the 87 municipalities in the State of New Jersey to do so.

Resolutions

- The MEC ask that the Town Council approve the Resolution in Support of Clean Water Supplies from the Highlands Coalition to protect the Highland's critical water supply, which provides clean and safe drinking water to over 5 million New Jersey residents

Our budget for 2016 was \$4,000, less our ANJEC dues of \$450.

The MEC welcomes any suggestions and comments or questions from the Morristown Town Council, Administration or public. Please email us at mec@townofmorristown.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Denman

Chair, Morristown Environmental Commission