

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Michael Hogan – Chairman, Richard Colby – Vice Chairman

**Members Present** - Ken Sooy, Jill Miles, Elmer Ripley, James Galvin, Bill Reinert, Michelle Bellinger,

**Members Absent** - Steve Fiedler

**Freeholder Representative** – Alex Marino - Present

**County Staff** - None

**Secretary** - Eric Husta – C.P.S. - Present

**Discussion topics:**

Motion to approve the minutes from our September meeting was made by Dick Colby and 2<sup>nd</sup> was provided by Bill Reinert.

Mike Hogan spoke to Catherine Treddick who in turn committed to speaking about her work during our February meeting in 2017. It was suggested that this meeting be held at the Mays Landing Library. Eric Husta said he would work on the application to have the room reserved for the meeting in question.

Mike also gave the current Watershed Ambassador a tour of the Estell Manor Park last week. She will continue to work on the flora and fauna survey of the park.

Mike also provided an update on the upcoming Pinelands short course, which will be held on the third Saturday in March at Stockton University where Mike will be presenting. He also discussed a recent visit to the park at Weymouth Furnace where he observed numerous people swimming and stated it seems to be an issue of enforcement as there are multiple signs prohibiting swimming. He suggested the group revisit the topic in the spring.

Dick Colby discussed his recent trip down the river with Fred Akers. He reported the river was in good shape and mostly free of litter. He also mentioned that Fred Akers was very happy with the recent Freeholder presentation regarding GEHWA and parks.

Dick also discussed some interesting works regarding environmental psychology studies he has been reviewing recently. Mention was made of a recent planning board application in Egg Harbor City regarding a pub's request for an LED sign. This prompted much discussion later in the meeting on sign ordinances and LED sign design requirements. Dick also suggested the possibility of having a meeting on the County's disaster preparedness plans.

Bill Reinert mentioned the Somers Point Environmental Commission and the Green Team have combined. He also discussed his recent work with the Littoral Society building reefs in Cumberland County utilizing 8,000 shell bags.

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Ken Sooy discussed the farmers market Galloway Township has been working on.

Freeholder Marino briefly discussed the farmers market which takes place in Linwood's Central Square each week. He also talked briefly about the County's Motts Creek Road project. Discussion was had about the issues of parking, trash, and fencing.

Michelle Bellinger mentioned the Galloway Green Team will be sponsoring the film "Facing the Surge" on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Stockton University. The ACUA has recently started an Explorer's Post where once a month high school students visit to see the types of jobs available. She also mentioned an open house on October 12<sup>th</sup> along with a "Make a Difference Day" clean up at the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Eric Husta mentioned the opening of the park's firewood program as well as the completion of the agreement to allow the rehabilitation of the Lake Lenape East lighthouse.

General points of discussion included the recent trash dumping in Monroe Township. Mike informed the group the individual responsible was caught and pleaded guilty to the littering. He also mentioned the Wharton MAP will be discussed at an October 26<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting at the Pinelands Commission.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ken Sooy at approximately 8:10 PM with Bill Reinert providing the second.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township. The speaker will be Vince Jones from Atlantic County's Office of Emergency Management.**

Cc. Dennis Levinson, County Executive  
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator  
Diana Rutala, Dep. County Administrator  
Frank D. Formica, Chairman - Board of Freeholders  
Alex Marino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative  
Will Pauls – Board of Freeholders  
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works  
All Advisory Board Members