

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting March 1st, 2017 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

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

Members Present - Ken Sooy, Jill Miles, Elmer Ripley

Members Absent - James Galvin, Bill Reinert, Steve Fiedler

Freeholder Representative – Alex Marino – present

County Staff - Greg Brookins, A.D.H.P.W.

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

The meeting opened with a successful motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting at 7:16PM.

The group decided to wait until more members were present to hold their annual reorganization

Discussion topics:

Mike Hogan reminded everyone he will be presenting a class at the Stockton short-course on the Pinelands Byway to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Mike also mentioned reorganizing at our next meeting, along with presenting a visual summary of his wildlife camera photographs. Mike made contact with Jason Hearon from the State who mentioned that a footbridge over Stephen's Creek would be a welcome addition. He also mentioned the State may be taking a comprehensive look at the wildlife management area regulations including those regarding horses in the state WMAs.

Dick Colby distributed a real nice journal on South Jersey history, culture, and geography. The journal is published by Stockton University and contained a generous amount of interesting information on our immediate area. He also mentioned in looking at the web page dedicated to the PEAB there should be more detail on the history behind the commission's origin and at least an acknowledgement that the commission was to give recommendations on both parks and public health.

Dick discussed his review of the Open Space Master Plan and said it was good but lacked a comprehensive survey of the needs of local residents. He also mentioned the need for bike trails in Galloway.

Freeholder Alex Marino updated the group on a citizen's concern over the cost of the helicopter rental used to monitor sites for mosquito control. Considerable discussion was had on the possible use of drones to do some of this work in the future with much of the information being provided by Greg Brookins on the County's behalf.

Jill Miles discussed the Health Department's role in the County's mosquito monitoring and control plan and pointed to the problems foreclosures and short sales have created. She also

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discussed some of the measures used to control mosquito prone sites such “pucks” or tablets used to treat pools and areas with standing water. There was also some discussion on the use of fish to combat the mosquitos as well.

Greg Brookins updated the group on the use of grant monies to help clean up areas subjected to chronic dumping. Public Works employees did most of the work and were able to remove and properly dispose of 34 tons of tires throughout the county.

Eric Husta mentioned that some portions of the County’s Cologne property were burned a few weeks ago and there are a few more areas on the schedule if the proper burning weather returns. Parks will also be participating in a tree seedling give away on April 1st for local residents of the county.

Motion to adjourn was made at approximately 8:15 PM

Speakers and/or presenters at next month meeting may include Mike Hogan or possibly Jason Hearon.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5th, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township.

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
Greg Brookins, Acting Dept. Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members