

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting April 5th, 2017 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

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

**Members Present** - James Galvin, Bill Reinert, Steve Fiedler, Elmer Ripley

**Members Absent** - Ken Sooy, Jill Miles

**Freeholder Representative** – Alex Marino – absent

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

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

The meeting opened with a quorum present and a successful reorganization at 7:04 PM. Bill Reinert was voted in as the new Chairman and Mike Hogan was voted in as the new Vice Chairman.

**Discussion topics:**

Mike Hogan was unable to confirm Jason Hearon, a regional New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Superintendent, as a speaker for this month's meeting. He will try to schedule Jason as a speaker for the next meeting. 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. Mike reported his presentations for the Pinelands short course at Stockton were a success.

Mike also reported on the Pinelands Byway signs and their quest to receive federal approval for the Byway. This would allow funding sources to begin flowing. There was also a population of swamp pink found along Mays Landing Somers Point Road. Finally, he noted the State may be looking at a large tract behind the Watering Hole, a bar on Weymouth road, as a potential piece to annex to the existing Great Egg Harbor River WMA.

Elmer Ripley suggested saluting the American Flag before beginning our meeting, which we did. The group agreed to continue this procedure moving forward as well. He also mentioned a recent township committee meeting where discussion was had about a swan being routinely fed and acting aggressively toward the complainant. Elmer also mentioned his desire to have the board draft a resolution of support to get more employees at Estell Manor Park to promote a push for tourism. This would help answer the perceived common complaint that people don't know where the parks are and what they have to offer without someone to show and guide them.

Dick Colby discussed his attendance at a workshop in Princeton regarding energy futures. He expressed his disappointment with the group's focus on maintaining the current levels of energy usage at all costs with no meaningful discussion on reducing consumption.

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Steve Fiedler updated the group on the Restore project. It's going well and the grand opening is being planned for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There will be food, music, and an array of dignitaries. Steve also mentioned the annual Galloway Green Festival being held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at the Galloway municipal building. Galloway also plans on hosting a farmers market from 9/15-10/15. The Forsythe Wildlife Refuge will soon be planning a grand opening after their remodeling work is completed. Finally, Galloway has welcomed a new intern on Galloway TV also.

Eric Husta mentioned the Lake Lenape West campground expansion was about to enter phase II. This consists of the construction of 6 lean-tos, fire pits, and a bathhouse. Considerable discussion was had on advertising the parks and the brochures employed to do so. Eric agreed to bring a copy of all the current brochures distributed in the parks. There was also talk of updating the *Birds of Atlantic County* brochure with the board's help and input.

Bill Reinert discussed the Somers Point Green Team and mentioned 2 upcoming speakers at city hall in Somers Point. The first speaker will be Heather Green to present a talk on lead in the environment and the second speaker will be Doug Abdill, Superintendent of Mosquito Control for Atlantic County, speaking on Mosquitos in our area. Bill also mentioned the upcoming horseshoe crab mating season and the volunteer work with the Littoral Society and the Nature Conservancy.

After the round table discussion closed, Mike Hogan provided the group with a presentation of game camera videos he has collected at various sites throughout our region.

Motion to adjourn was made at approximately 8:15 PM

The speaker at next month meeting may be Jason Hearon.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township.**

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive  
Jerry DeRosso, 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