

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting May 3rd, 2017 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman,

Members Present - Ken Sooy, Jill Miles, Steve Fiedler, Elmer Ripley

Members Absent - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, James Galvin

Freeholder Representative – Alex Marino – absent

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

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

The meeting opened with the flag salute at 7:03 PM.

Discussion topics:

Bill Reinert talked to Jim Rutala who works with several local municipalities in an effort to procure various sources of grant funding. He also confirmed Jim will be available to speak about the various bike paths in the area and sources of grant funding for these types of projects.

Some general discussion was had on various maps and brochures but with particular emphasis on maps of all bike paths in Atlantic County.

Dick Colby discussed the recent purchase of the Pfeiffer House in Egg Harbor City. Mr. Foreman purchased the property and would like to donate it to the city. Dick also presented and discussed the railroad abandonment manual kept by Stockton University.

Elmer Ripley talked about the potential expansion of the bikeway and how the path might cross the Great Egg Harbor River.

Steve Fiedler announced he will be traveling to Italy next month. He also mentioned some upcoming events in Galloway including the 4th Annual Antique Car Show on May 6th and the Galloway Green Fest on May 13th. Steve also discussed the history of the Noyes Museum and the fact it was purchased in 1958 and functioned as the Little Indian Day Camp until 1980. This information was conveyed through a recent conversation with the original builder.

Discussion was also had regarding the proposed Hidden Creek Sporting Clays project. Steve read a letter from his brother Martin regarding his opposition to the project. General discussion was also had about the viability of a shooting range at location.

Ken Sooy discussed Smithville's plan to expand the old Quail Hill lot. It will be mixed use in nature with single family townhomes, a convention center and hotel, and a 60 bed assisted living facility. He also mentioned a restoration of the boatworks on Nacote Creek is underway.

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Jill Miles talked briefly about the increase in special events recently looking for Health Department approvals.

Greg Brookins discussed the recent DEP inspections occurring in the Department of Public Works. Part of this inspection includes outreach revolving around pollution prevention measures which are to be distributed or displayed throughout various buildings in Public Works. Greg also mentioned the upcoming Weymouth Road bridge work which will cause a road closure and detour this summer. There may also be some impact on the liveries using the river in this area as well.

Eric Husta updated the group on the Lake Lenape West campground expansion. Discussion was also had on the Lake Lenape tract regarding its size and potential access points.

Bill Reinert reported on how successful the recent talks in Somers Point were. Doug Abdill and Heather Greene gave talks on mosquitos and lead respectively. He also mentioned a clean up on Patcong Creek scheduled on May 21st from 10AM - 12PM. Litter clean up supplies can be picked up at the Linwood Public Works department.

Steve Fiedler also mentioned a talk he attended regarding the old Mullica River and the effects of sea level rise.

Motion to adjourn was made at approximately 8:35 PM

The speaker at next month meeting will be Jim Rutala. The group will also be touring the Atlantic County Veterans Museum in Estell Manor Park at 6 PM.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 7th, at 6 PM at the Atlantic County Veterans Museum in Estell Manor Park.

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, Dept. Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members