

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting June 7th 2017 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman,

Members Present - Jill Miles, Dick Colby

Members Absent - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, James Galvin, Steve Fiedler, Elmer Ripley
Ken Sooy

Freeholder Representative – Alex Marino – absent

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

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

Field trip:

The meeting began with a tour of the new Veterans Museum given by Cindy Mason Purdie. Several members of the Friends of the Parks organization were present for the tour also.

Discussion topics:

The guest speaker for the evening was Jim Rutala who works with several local municipalities in an effort to procure various sources of grant funding for the master planning of pedestrian/bikeways. Jim also discussed the various gaps in existing systems while outlining how organizations can go about garnering local and governmental support for these projects. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for local advocates to ensure their success as well.

Jim also spent some time discussing possible funding sources for projects and talked briefly about NJDOT and the services and funding they are willing to provide. Pedestrian/trail studies are often times provided for municipalities or government agencies who request them.

Discussion was had about the board drafting a resolution of support for the funding of these types of trails in Atlantic County. Dick Colby stated he was willing to develop a draft which has been completed and will be attached to the distribution of this month's meeting minutes.

Jill Miles discussed the upcoming food truck festival in Hammonton. A brief discussion was also had about the Powassan virus and its appearance in the news lately.

Bill Reinert spoke briefly about the Atlantic County Birding brochure and supported the idea of having the group and Mike Hogan in particular, getting involved with updating and reprinting the information.

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The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 6th, 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, Dept. Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members