

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting September 6th, 2017 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman,

Members Present - Jill Miles, Dick Colby, James Galvin, Steve Fiedler, Elmer Ripley, Ken Sooy

Members Absent - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman,

Freeholder Representative – Alex Marino – present

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

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

Discussion topics:

Freeholder Marino explained the process of finalizing Bike/Trails resolution and the process of getting it before the Freeholder Board. Elmer Ripley suggested adding adjacent counties to the list of those to be notified on passing of the resolution. Dick Colby suggested the same notification of municipal Green Teams and Environmental Commissions. With several minor modifications Freeholder Marino expects the resolution to be on the September 19th Freeholder agenda.

A discussion took place regarding the county owned wooded area on the northeast corner of Route 9 and Dolphin Avenue in Northfield and the possibility of it being used for passive recreation. Bill Reinert will discuss with the County Planning Department any Green Acres restrictions that may be on the land.

The idea was presented concerning the possibility of agreements with utility companies regarding access along their right-of-ways for bike/hike trails, particularly along high power lines. This will also be brought up to the County Planning Department Head.

Dick Colby pointed out need to get access to County Parks to blaze sections of trail which will complete Atlantic County portion of High Point to Cape May Hiking Trail & Greenway. Dick will work directly with Parks for that access.

Dick also mentioned promoting solar energy plan and the concept of community solar energy programs.

Elmer Ripley mentioned 2 bridges in Mays Landing he was concerned about; Pennington Point Bridge (state) and the Cotton Mill Bridge (county). Freeholder Marino will look into plans for both bridges. On September 13th Freeholder Marino reported the Cotton Mill Bridge has been designed, is undergoing permitting, and work should begin September 2018.

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Ken Sooy provided the group with an update on Smithville development plans. He requested update on the Motts Creek bulkhead project from Greg Brookins.

Jill Miles presented information on a rabid fox case at Stockton University.

Greg Brookins gave an update on gazebo repairs at Oscar E. McClinton Park.

Bill Reinert will contact the ACUA for a potential replacement on the advisory board of Michele Bellinger.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th, 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