

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting January 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2019 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman

**Members Present** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Heather Warburton, Steve Fiedler, Dick Colby, Ken Sooy, Jill Miles

**Members Absent** - James Galvin, Elmer Ripley,

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino – absent

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

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

The meeting opened with the flag salute.

The group reorganized prior to the beginning of the roundtable discussions. Bill Reinert remains the chairman, while Mike Hogan remains the vice chairman.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Dick Colby suggested the board participate in some joint presentations with the Friends of the Parks on topics of common interest. He also suggested adding Environmental Justice to the list of topics for discussion in the coming year. Dick also updated the group on the status of the blue-blazed statewide trail he has been working on as well. Group discussion was also had on plastic bag bans, community street trees, and the DEP alumni group formed to take legal action against current DEP policies currently in place.

Considerable discussion was had on potential speakers for 2019.

Bill Reinert updated the group on his pursuit of the documentary on oyster farming and mentioned due to some sort of complication, the video has been pulled from circulation. Discussion was also had on the mute swans residing in the Tuckahoe WMA impoundments which led to a group discussion on invasive insect and plant species including the spotted lantern fly and oriental bittersweet.

Mike Hogan detailed the upcoming Pinelands short courses as well as the “stream schools” being held at Camden County College April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> as the days when the NJDEP watershed ambassador course will be held at Batsto. Mike also mentioned his macro-invertebrate surveys. He also updated the group on PSE&G meetings regarding their ROWs.

Heather Warburton updated the group on the Hammonton Environmental Council’s Off Fossil Fuels Act. She also mentioned the council should be voting on the act shortly. Heather also discussed with the group, Hammonton’s community solar pilot program to provide solar power

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in Hammonton. This led to general discussion of municipal open space funding sources.

Eric Husta updated the group on recent ATV concerns on certain county parcels.

Jill Miles mentioned there were 4 rabies cases reported in 2018.

Ken Sooy mentioned things were quiet in Galloway and asked if there were any updates on the County's Mott's Creek project.

Steve Fiedler discussed the Pinelands Byway meeting he recently attended. He also discussed the state of wind power in New Jersey and suggested a resolution of support possibly be drafted and forwarded County Administration.

The final topic of the night was a suggestion that Eric reach out to Administration to present the request that the board be able to review all County road plans involving the selection and placement of street trees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.**

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive  
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator  
Diana Rutala, Dep. County Administrator  
Frank D. Formica, Chairman - Board of Freeholders  
James Bertino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative  
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works  
All Advisory Board Members