

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board**  
**Meeting January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 online via Webex**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman, Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman

**Members Present** - Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Lisa March

**Members Absent** - Ken Sooy, Heather Warburton,

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino - present

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

**Secretary** - Eric Husta – D.D.P.R. – present

**Guests**- Dan Crum- (attending as a representative of the Health Department)

**Old Business:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM and the minutes from our November meeting were accepted with a motion from Dick Colby and a second from Mike Hogan. Reorganization business was tabled until next month's meeting.

Bill Reinert readdressed a previous conversation regarding Bikeway West and the Camden to Atlantic City connection. He asked to have John Peterson from the county planning department provide the group with an update on the study currently underway.

**New Business:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM and the minutes from our November meeting were accepted with a motion from Dick Colby and a second from Mike Hogan. Reorganization business was tabled until next month's meeting.

Discussions regarding topics for the year included invasive plants such as the callery pears, the development of native tree planting lists, solar farms, drone use, the NJ water savers program and the topics provided by Dick Colby's annual list.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Dan Crum updated the group on various Covid procedures and was asked about the possibility of vaccine administration through Stockton University's nursing program. He was also asked whether the health department was taking volunteers. He responded in the affirmative but would prefer individuals who are trained.

Lisa March discussed the potential for vaccine registration through New Jersey's vaccine registration portal and the amount of high water in EHT due to recent rain events. Discussion was also had regarding the EHT nature preserve and its administration by township committee.

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Greg Brookins updated the group on the County's Covid protocols and the preparations for snow events.

Dick Colby provided the group with a status update on the North South Statewide Trail. He also mentioned the trail information is now posted on the Sierra Club's website and it has become their most visited page. Discussion was also had regarding the potential for public access across Mares Run.

Eric Husta provided an update on various park projects and agreed to seek clarification on the access through Lenape West via Mares Run.

Steve Fiedler mentioned his recent trail maintenance activities and how much of an increase there has been in the amount of use of local trails. He discussed with the group, the status of the Smithville Hansen pit passive recreation area and Stockton University's no net loss program. He also mentioned the increased usage of the Clarks Landing property along with the access issues associated with the various ownership of the area. He also mentioned the discussions he has had with Jason Hearon from NJDEP on the road conditions in the area as well.

Steve also facilitated discussion on the County's involvement with 4-H and the status of the David C. Wood building's concrete floor.

Mike Hogan discussed rain gardens in Pittsgrove and the eagle's nest along the Atlantic City Expressway.

Bill Reinert also noted the long-term resident eagles in the north end of Estell Manor Park have moved across South River to an adjacent parcel.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 7 PM via WebEx.**

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