

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

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman

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

**Members Absent** - Elmer Ripley

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino - absent

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

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

**Member of the Public** - Chris Bonsall

**Old Business:**

Mike Hogan made a motion to approve the resolution to be sent to the Board of Freeholders. Dick Colby seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Mike Hogan discussed his wood walks held in the previous months. He also gave a brief overview of the spotted lantern fly and control measures for Ailanthus, the preferred host plant. Information on the status of watershed ambassadors was given as well.

Dick Colby mentioned the upcoming NJ Shade Tree Federation meeting in Atlantic City on 10/24 and 10/25. He also commented on Steve Fiedler's invasive species talk and briefed the group on the biennial meeting of regional partnership rivers recently hosted by Fred Akers.

Steve Fiedler briefed the group on the recent invasive species talk and mentioned an upcoming talk on 10/21/19 at Stockton University's Mainland campus in Room L112 at 7 PM.

Ken Sooy also mentioned how good Steve's invasive species presentation was. He also commented on the Motts Creek project the County is currently undertaking.

Jill Miles discussed positive West Nile Virus samples collected throughout various parts of the County. Mention was also made of the recent EEE cases and recent aerial mosquito sprayings. Jill also mentioned the outreach materials consisting of pamphlets and brochures. She also briefed the group on recent inspections of blueberry farms made in conjunction with NJDEP focusing on septic systems and worker housing.

General discussion was had on monarch butterflies, their migration and need of milkweed for habitat.

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Eric Husta discussed events at Estell Manor Park and Lake Lenape East. He also made mention of the burn area maps Parks recently submitted to the forest fire service in the hopes of getting some areas added to their list of sites for the spring season.

Greg Brookins discussed the upcoming expansion at Estell Manor Park and the tree planting that recently took place in Oscar E. McClinton Park.

Heather Warburton inquired about the development notifications we receive and what the group does with the information. Discussion was had regarding the plan sets, where to see them, and why our board is notified. Heather also mentioned the Pinelands Commission still has not rescinded the approvals issued for the pipeline project. Discussion was also had on the export of natural gas on the Delaware River.

Member of the public, Chris Bonsall, introduced himself and provided the group with some of the history of his hand in creating the original single track mountain bike trail in Estell Manor Park. He also expressed interest in learning about the potential of future connections to not only other proposed sections of trail, but other counties as well. General discussion was had regarding the obstacles that would need to be overcome to continue the effort, including land ownership and the crossing of the Great Egg Harbor River.

Jill Miles made a motion to adjourn at 8:21PM and Ken Sooy seconded the motion.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 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  
Amy Gatto, Chairwoman - Board of Freeholders  
James Bertino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative  
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works  
All Advisory Board Members