

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting October 6th, 2021 online via Webex**

In attendance:

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

Members Present – Dan Crum, Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Lisa March

Members Absent - Ken Sooy, Heather Warburton

Commissioner Representative – James Bertino - absent

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

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. - present

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM and the minutes from our September meeting were approved unanimously.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Steve Fiedler discussed his work on the Friends Along the Mullica project and the three-year group effort it took to complete. He has been spending considerable time getting the word out to municipal green teams and much discussion was had on various distribution tactics including such things as a promotional video. Some progress has been made on keeping the Clark's Landing area clean by coordinating trash collection efforts with Egg Harbor City and the ACUA.

There was group discussion on the topic of ownership and acquisition of the Clark's Landing properties as well as the desire for the County to acquire access along the Mullica River. Various sites were considered in addition to Clark's Landing including Gloucester Landing and The Forks.

Mention was made of canoe/water access points and discussion was had regarding the Klingenger Fishing Pier serving as a great point of access. Bill Reinert mentioned the group would like the County to consider renovating and reopening this area for use.

Dan Crum updated the group on the County's Covid and flu testing efforts. He recounted a site visit by the County Executive and mentioned continued cases of West Nile Virus and EEE being discovered in the county.

Mike Hogan updated the group on his work in Camden County with their new naturalists. He also mentioned he will be leading a walk along the Maurice River bluffs on 10/16 at 10 AM.

Dick Colby discussed ongoing meetings regarding Bikeway West and the work Camden county has been doing to extend their bikeway into Atlantic county. Group discussion was had on the Somers Point bike path as well.

Eric Husta discussed the increasing presence of spotted lantern flies in county parks and confirmed the nature center in Estell Manor Park is open to the public.

Greg Brookins mentioned the Friends Along the Mullica video and commended Steve Fiedler for his efforts.

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Bill Reinert updated the group on the Rails to Trails Facebook group. Discussion was had on Covid vaccine booster shots and some of the locations providing them such as Walgreens.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 at 7 PM.

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