

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting December 4th , 2019 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman

Members Present - Ken Sooy, Stephen Fielder, Jill Miles, Heather Warburton

Members Absent - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Dick Colby

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, Barbara Fiedler

The meeting opened with a flag salute at 7:04 PM

Old Business: None

The lecturers for the evening were board member Steve Fiedler and his wife Barbara Fiedler. Their presentation focused on 12 invasive plant species found in and around southern New Jersey. The presentation featured a useful commentary on identification provided by narrator Jesse Connor as well as great video footage of each plant.

Once the presentation concluded, there was discussion on methods of control for invasive plants as well as tactics being employed to prevent their return. There was also talk regarding specific areas of invasive plant presence and possible case studies focusing on their removal.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Eric Husta briefed the group on the current expansion and construction underway in Estell Manor Park.

Jill Miles discussed the NJDEP Communication Committee and climate control literature. She also referenced a summary of New Jersey's plastic bag laws and provided the group with a list of active superfund sites in Atlantic County.

Heather Warburton mentioned Governor Murphy's reclassification of burning trash to a renewal resource. She expressed concern regarding the difference between burning refuse and utilizing the methane decomposing trash emits. Heather also suggested the group hold a more in depth discussion regarding the conversion of rails to trails and the possible downside of losing so many railways.

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Member of the public, Chris Bonsall, talked briefly about the topic of bikeway west and the letter he wrote to the Shore Cycle Group. He also mentioned his intention to contact other local groups as well in an effort to garner support.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8th, 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