

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting February 5<sup>th</sup> , 2020 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman,

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

**Members Absent** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman,

**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, Maureen Kearney, Lisa Schroeder, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Ambassador

The meeting opened with a flag salute at 7:00 PM

**Old Business:**

A brief recap of Liz Sewell’s lecture was given. Ms. Sewell, A Trail Development Manager for the Rails to Trails Conservancy, gave a very informative presentation last month and began generating a list of email addresses for a cross-county meeting on bike trails from the Ben Franklin Bridge area to the New Jersey shore.

**New Business:**

Lisa Schroeder, the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Ambassador, introduced herself and provided the group with a brief summary of her role. She is currently acting as the ambassador until the end of her term in July. Lisa will be focusing on flooding issues while conducting outreach on topics such as rain gardens and rain capture systems. Ms. Schroeder will be conducting a rain barrel workshop at the end of February as well as hosting a table at the upcoming ACUA Earth Day event.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Stephen Fiedler talked about the Clark’s Landing area along the Mullica River and the lingering questions of ownership. The area is currently owned by several entities including NJDEP, Egg Harbor City, Galloway Township, and private owners. He suggested the group draft a resolution to have this area taken over and cared for by the County, thereby creating a comparable facility to what is currently found along the Great Egg Harbor River.

Steve also mentioned an upcoming lunch and learn at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. Discussion was also had regarding flood insurance and the remediation of “Hansen’s Pit”. He mentioned Stockton University was interested in doing some no net loss

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reforestation work and redevelopment plans included the creation of meadows areas for hiking and biking and a sledding hill as well.

Jill Miles gave an update on the coronavirus and updated the group on the outreach efforts to local Asian markets with numbers to call for information. She also mentioned one new case of rabies her office has seen.

Dick Colby mentioned having joint meetings with the Friends of the Parks group to discuss agenda items related directly to parks.

Ken Sooy updated the group on the County's work at Mott's Creek and mentioned it looked good.

Maureen Kearney, member of the public, voiced her concern with the presence of DATEM (Diacetyl Tartaric Acid Ester of Mono- and Diglycerides) in dough recipes. She asked Jill if the Health Department had any input or opinions on the topic as she fears it may be causing her severe allergic reactions. General discussion was then had on the chemical being banned in Europe and bread additives in general.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> , 2020, 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 Formica, Chairman - Board of Freeholders  
James Bertino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative  
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works  
All Advisory Board Members