

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting March 4th , 2020 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

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

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

Members Absent - none

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 - Lisa March

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

Old Business:

Mention was made of the upcoming Trails workshop on March 10th with Liz Sewell along with an upcoming HUB workshop on March 16, at 6PM at the Stockton Aviation Center. Focus will be on coastal resiliency and include Cape-Atlantic green teams. Mention was also made of an upcoming Pinelands municipal meeting in Buena Vista Township on Wednesday.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Dick Colby discussed the Clarks Landing site and the mixture of ownership west of Hay Road. He also discussed drafting a resolution to the County urging them to take over the area. Steve Fiedler agreed to draft the resolution, so Mike Hogan made a motion and Dick Colby seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Dick also mentioned the widening of the state highway Route 50 shoulder through Egg Harbor City all the way to the Egg Harbor City Lake, spurred in part by walkers to Cedar Creek High School. Discussion was also had on the Bear Creek Preserve and the origin of the name.

Steve Fiedler informed the group Rutgers would be moving out of its current research center and into the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve. He also mentioned a petition by the Pinelands Commission regarding off road vehicle use and abuse. Steve concluded with a discussion the Galloway Environmental Commission and the planting of basins in the township.

Jill Miles gave an update on the COVID-19 priorities and procedures in place. This includes topics regarding the lethality and spread of the virus. She also mentioned the shortage of supplies such as hand sanitizer.

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Ken Sooy mentioned the Motts Creek park and the potential problems with patrons of the Motts Creek Inn utilizing the spaces.

Eric Husta mentioned State Fish and Game and their ongoing work at the fish ladder installing a counting device.

Greg Brookins mentioned the ongoing work at the Cotton Mill bridge and Lake Lenape Dam area.

Heather Warburton mentioned the town of Hammonton receiving a grant from the ACUA regarding plastic bag awareness. Kids were building a “creature” to promote the cause as well. Heather also mentioned calls being made in an attempt to get New Jersey off fossil fuels.

Mike Hogan briefed the group on the upcoming Native Plant Society annual meeting and Pinelands short course. He also discussed ATV problems in Estell Manor in the vicinity of Walkers Forge Road and other areas.

Bill Reinert discussed his recent activity with the Somers Point Environmental Commission.

Guest and prospective new board member, Lisa March, introduced herself to the group as a long time EHT resident and a candidate running for town council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Our Wednesday, April 1st , 2020 meeting at the Canale Training Center in EHT has been CANCELLED.

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