

Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting March 6th, 2019 at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman

Members Present - Dick Colby, Ken Sooy, Jill Miles, James Galvin, Heather Warburton

Members Absent - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Elmer Ripley, Steve Fiedler,

Freeholder Representative – James Bertino - absent

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

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

The PEAB meeting opened with the flag salute at 7 PM and introductions.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Bill Reinert updated the group on the dredge spoils and their reuse. He is also trying to get a site remediation speaker to commit for our June meeting in lieu of our regularly scheduled field trip. Bill also mentioned the Stockton University campus in Atlantic City will be showing the movie on oysters/oyster farming on Thursday, March 28th.

Heather Warburton discussed the idea of the committee drafting an Off Fossil Fuels resolution of support for consideration at the Freeholder level. The group collectively decided to delay the action until more comprehensive information is available regarding the actual process of eliminating our dependency on fossil fuels. Heather also mentioned an upcoming Pinelands Commission meeting and the permits they issue to groups participating in yearly Jeep Jamborees. Discussion was also had on vernal pools and the destruction they are subjected to by these activities.

Jill Miles discussed the Atlantic County Walking Guides assembled and distributed by the Division of Public Health. Eric Husta agreed to obtain copies of the new guide and display them for distribution in the Nature Center at Estell Manor Park.

Eric Husta discussed the various expansion projects underway in the Division of Parks including, the Veterans Cemetery, picnic area 2 restrooms and pavilions, the catering hall kitchen outfit, and Lake Lenape East phase III ADA compliance work.

Ken Sooy mentioned Galloway town council was working with NJ Fish and Game to take over lands in Smithville. He also mentioned a mining pit that will be turned into a park after the site has been remediated. Ken also made mention of a new AtlantiCare medical office complex near the intersection of Great Creek and Jimmie Leeds roads.

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Dick Colby reported on his recent travels and the nature center he visited is Boca Raton, Florida. General discussion regarding the County budget was had.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 3rd 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