

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting April 3rd , 2019 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman

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

Members Absent - Bill Reinert – Chairman, Elmer Ripley, Steve Fiedler,

Freeholder Representative – James Bertino - present

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

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

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Freeholder Bertino discussed the recent high water table and flooding issues. He also made mention of the prospect for the return of area rail service and its importance to the regional economy. Discussion was had on potholes in County roads and how they are filled with various polymers. Greg Brookins suggested reporting potholes on County roads by using <https://www.atlantic-county.org/public-works> or calling (609) 645-5876 or 1-877-426-7623.

Jill Miles discussed the first rabies case of the season in Absecon and commented on the new video on Barnegat Bay Oyster Harvesting.

Mike Hogan discussed pervious sidewalks in Camden County and commented on their 10-year-plus durability. He also made mention of a macroinvertebrate workshop for assessing streamwater quality. Mike discussed various Wharton State Forest issues and mentioned the Watershed Ambassador, Stockton University, and Mayflies. There is also the possibility of an August workshop on bird photography.

Ken Sooy mentioned the newly preserved open space in Galloway and NJ Fish and Game's role in that preservation. Conversation was had on the different local, County, and State rules of protection for Eagle nests.

Heather Warburton in conjunction with Freeholder Bertino discussed the idea of offshore dredging and it being a municipal rather than county issue. It was mentioned Somers Point is working on it already. Heather also mentioned a community cannabis forum on April 4th. She also made mention of the need for an open process for appointing Atlantic County's Pinelands Commissioner. Discussion was also had on legislative versus executive functions in various forms of County government.

Dick Colby reported on the possible connection to the cross-Camden County bike path from Atlantic County's Bikeway West. He also asked about computer/projector access in the Canale

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Training Center conference room, a needs assessment for disc golf in Estell Manor Park, and access to a brush hog for trail clearing. Discussion was also had regarding Community Solar projects in Atlantic County and preparations taken for forest fires in Atlantic County.

Greg Brookins mentioned that due to increases in tick populations and tick-borne diseases in NJ the State is exploring having tick surveillance and control performed utilizing existing county mosquito control agencies. The task has raised many questions to be answered such as funding sources, available resources and proven methodologies. Discussions between stakeholders are ongoing

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 1st 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