

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting April 7th, 2021 online via Webex**

In attendance:

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

Members Present - Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Lisa March, Heather Warburton, Ken Sooy

Members Absent - Dan Crum

Commissioner Representative – James Bertino - absent

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

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

Old Business:

Mike Hogan updated the group on his swamp pink planting in a wetland at the Oldman's Creek Preserve in Swedesboro and also mentioned the closing on an additional 40 acres on Oldman's Creek.

Discussion was also had on the spotted lantern fly. Lisa March mentioned the Nextdoor application/website and her posting of the spotted lantern fly information on it. Bill Reinert discussed coastal resiliency planning as it relates specifically to recreation and transportation and the fishing industry.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Bill also updated the group on his monitoring of the eagles on South River.

Dick Colby discussed the 17 year cicada season and suggested a frog chorus walk in Estell Manor Park. There was also group discussion regarding current proposed legislation requiring forestry management plans for all publicly owned lands. Also included in the legislation are minimum acreages of control burn for holdings inside and outside of the Pinelands jurisdictional boundaries.

Discussion was also had regarding tick proof clothing and Dick showed the group his socks from the company InsectShield.

Steve Fiedler mentioned wanting to learn more about the previously discussed mandates for forestry management. He also fostered discussion regarding Clarks Landing use, ownership, and improvements. Mention was made of Galloway joining the NJ Coastal Coalition and Delaware introducing an invasive plant ban.

Heather Warburton noted those working with or interested in resiliency planning should contact the New Jersey Organizing Project.

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Greg Brookins noted members of the County's public works department were assisting Egg Harbor City with vegetation removal along Hay Road, the major access route to Clarks Landing.

Mike Hogan mentioned the preservation of 40 acres in Salem County and the Kirkwood Lake EPA arsenic cleanup. He also updated the group on the Eagles has been monitoring as well as the high water tables and local frog populations he's been seeing this season.

Ken Sooy talked about the Old Quail Hill property and the need for a new CAFRA permit. Discussion was had on the various components of the project as well as the 325 parking spaces servicing it. It was also mentioned that Shoprite will be moving their store to a new property as well.

To close out the meeting there was a poll taken and we will be meeting outside at a Lake Lenape East pavilion at 6 PM, weather permitting for our next meeting on Wednesday, May 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 5th, 2021 at 6 PM at an outdoor Lake Lenape East pavilion, weather permitting.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Diana Rutala, Deputy County Administrator
Maureen Kern, Chairperson - Board of County Commissioners
James Bertino, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members