

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board**  
**Meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2020 online via Webex**

In attendance:

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

**Members Present** - Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Jill Miles, Lisa March

**Members Absent** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Ken Sooy, Heather Warburton

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino - absent

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

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

Roundtable discussions were the main agenda item this month as we decided against holding our annual June field trip.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Dick Colby discussed the grant Egg Harbor City had recently received to replace 100 street trees throughout the city that had been lost to the 2012 derecho. Local officials declined to replace the trees along streets and instead opted to place them along the entrance to Cedar Creek High School. Discussion was also had regarding factors which may have contributed to Egg Harbor City having the fewest cases of Covid-19 so far.

Eric Husta discussed the current construction projects underway in Estell Manor Park. This included a new ADA compliant ramp and walk system at the Nature Center, expansion of the Veterans cemetery, a new restroom facility in picnic area 2, and a new paved exercise trail. He also mentioned all parks are currently open including camping and boating at Lake Lenape West and outlined the discussions currently underway to get all park staff back to work full time.

Greg Brookins furthered the discussion on all employees returning to work.

Lisa March provided the group with a formal introduction and discussed how valuable the Egg Harbor Township Nature Preserve trails have been during these times. Mention was also made of how bad the pollen has been this year.

Jill Miles informed the group her employees have been working full time to remain available to assist nurses and other health care professionals in this time of need. A lengthy discussion was had describing the various components of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic including contact tracing and the isolation and quarantine processes. The process of testing and swabbing was also discussed as was the type of test used to confirm a positive case versus an antibody test.

Steve Fiedler informed the group that Pinelands short courses were now online at the Pinelands Commission website. He also mentioned the re-opening of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. He talked about their inventory including furniture, plumbing supplies, cabinets, and hardware items among other things.

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Steve's invasive species talks and movie presentations have been virtually halted with the recent pandemic. The farmer's market at Smithville is slated to begin operation every Thursday night, from June 25<sup>th</sup>, 4PM-7PM through August. He also made mention of the Galloway landfill solar project getting underway with Galloway entering a lease agreement with three other companies to begin supplying 3.3 megawatts of power with the town receiving payments over 30 years.

Mr. Fiedler also briefed the group on a conference call involving various stakeholders and landowners in Galloway where ATV use has become problematic. The aim of the call was to see what can be done to curb the traffic flow, including adding signage, ownership boundaries, and interagency cooperation to track down habitual offenders.

Steve concluded by highlighting several other projects he has been involved with including Go Green Galloway and the \$20,000 grant they received which will fund water bottle filling stations at various locations such as the Tartaglio Sports Complex and Patriot Lake. He also mentioned the online presence of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR) and 2 minute videos posted in conjunction with Sustainable Jersey.

Bill Reinert discussed the invasive species removal project he's working on in Somers Point. He also briefed the group on his efforts as a Migratory Shorebird Steward. He mentioned the timing miscue between horseshoe crab breeding times and the arrival of migrating Red Knots. He concluded with his involvement in locating the Atlantic Coast Leopard frog

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</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