

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting October 5th, 2022 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Mike Hogan-Vice Chairman

Members Present - Dan Crum, Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Lisa March, Belinda Chester, Ken Sooy

Members Absent - Heather Warburton

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -absent

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

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

Guests- Two Stockton University students were present as well as a member of the public, Mr. Alex Perri.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM and a flag salute was conducted. The minutes from our September 7th, 2022 meeting were approved as well.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Eric Husta discussed upgrades taking place at the Nature Center. He also mentioned the park system is actively looking to fill a few different positions relating to park management and environmental coordination/outreach. When asked, he explained that keeping live animal displays was not currently a park objective and while that could always change, focus is being placed on providing a wide variety of outreach and educational programs.

Dick Colby mentioned his concern on the environmental effects of heavy rainfall events. Discussion was then had on basin capacities and overflow as well as offshore wind power and local resistance to it. Dick also updated the group on his letter to the editor urging the use of wind power.

Belinda Chester has been conducting talks on the spotted lantern fly. She updated the group on several possible methods of control including vinegar, soapy water, and certain limited insecticidal soaps. She mentioned the flies are more of a nuisance than a danger to homeowners at this point. Belinda also updated the group on several Master Gardener beds that are due for an overhaul including those at the Extension Building in Mays Landing and some areas of the Galloway Library. She updated the group on the Garden Education series, part one of the Master Gardener program. Belinda also discussed combining classes with Cape May County as well revamping the composting program. She closed her update by noting the retirement of the current County Extension Head.

Steve Fiedler noted the Galloway Green Market is winding down. He also updated the group on the extensive work he has been a part of at the Glen by the Bay Park in Galloway which includes the development of pollinator stations and various other partnerships to aid the work's progress. He noted plant surveys are completed and suggested others visit Fixourparksnj.org to find information on how to join the effort or for updated information such as the latest status on NJDEP's Motorized Access Plan.

Community member Alex Perri introduced himself to the group and summarized his recent work on identifying and removing invasive plant species in various areas of Galloway.

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Ken Sooy generated discussion on Steve Fiedler's "Friends Along the Mullica" video and the Sustainable Jersey Grant program. He concluded his update with discussion on students and volunteerism.

Mike Hogan mentioned a clean up on Chew Road and his macroinvertebrate study. He summarized the 10-month Americorp Watershed Ambassador Program and provided considerable constructive advice for the two student guests in attendance at the meeting. He concluded with an update on the possibility of introducing trash incineration to the ACUA.

Next month's meeting will be a joint meeting with members of Friends of the Parks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center and will be a joint meeting with Friends of the Parks.

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