

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting September 1st, 2021 online via Webex**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman

**Members Present** – Dan Crum Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Heather Warburton

**Members Absent** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Lisa March, Ken Sooy

**Commissioner Representative** – James Bertino - absent

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:14PM and the minutes from our June meeting were approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Bill Reinert revisited the topic of Atlantic County Bikeway West and the connection with the route coming out of Camden/Burlington county area. He updated the group on the planning process taking place with current focus on possible alternate routes. The topic of resiliency planning was also revisited with discussion on back bay flooding in our area.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Eric Husta updated the group on the current projects underway in parks and general discussion was had on the various types of acquisitions the County makes and the objectives they aim to achieve. Talks also included the new SJTA managed grassland habitat and Whirlpool Island.

Greg Brookins provided a summary and status report on the work underway on the Green Bank Bridge.

Dan Crum discussed the current Covid-19 situation and the Delta variant. He also touched on current mask mandates as well as current reports of West Nile Virus and EEE.

Heather Warburton updated the group on the campaign for Lieutenant Governor and discussed the recent extreme weather events in our area. Talk was had on New Jersey's first ever tornado emergency and the possible need for funding for infrastructure repairs related to weather related damages. Group discussion was had on where the monies should come from and the types of repairs for which they should be used. Heather also mentioned the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on global warming.

Dick Colby reported some designated "No Mow Zones" along roadways are still being mowed. He also updated the group on a conversation with Rick Dovey of the ACUA on capturing more revenue from their wind farm as excess electricity is being sold back to Atlantic City Electric.

Steve Fiedler updated the group on some of the same mowing issues Dick Colby mentioned, noting some of the issues appear to be related to private homeowners. He also discussed resiliency updates associated with the NJ

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Coastal Coalition. Steve also reported his movie on the topic of the Mullica River has recently been completed. His mention of invasive species prompted discussion about a recent Hamilton Township article regarding a possible ordinance change regarding bamboo/invasive plants.

Bill Reinert updated the group on his recent monitoring of bald eagles and piping plovers. He and Steve Fiedler also mentioned how productive a recently combined meeting of local Green Teams had been.

The night's topics concluded with discussion on the Salem Oak and its seedlings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 7 PM .**

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