

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting November 3rd, 2021 online via Webex**

In attendance:

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

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

**Members Absent** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Dick Colby, 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 7:11 PM and the minutes from our October meeting were approved unanimously.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Steve Fiedler discussed his work with local watershed ambassadors completing service projects which included the cutting and removal of Tree of Heaven. He also provided an update on the Clark's Landing area trash collection efforts. The County provided the necessary trash container and Egg Harbor City has agreed to monitor and collect the refuse.

Discussion was also had on various pieces of scenic byway literature and pamphlets from the Pinelands Commission. Steve also discussed an ongoing Pinelands Commission project involving ground penetrating radar as well as an upcoming Sustainable Jersey luncheon on November 16<sup>th</sup>. An update was provided on a 2021 collaboration award for the 8 towns involved in his "Friends Along the Mullica" project. Steve's video can now be found on the Pinelands Commission and Pinelands Preservation Alliance websites.

Dan Crum updated the group on the County's first human case of West Nile Virus this year and mentioned that Covid booster shots are now available for those who received Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. He mentioned to the group, the recent retirement of Pat Diamond and provided an update on the health department's request for hazard pay during the pandemic.

Heather Warburton updated the group on her recent campaign work and the spotted lantern flies in the Hammonton area.

Greg Brookins mentioned the recent storm flooding and clean up from wind damages as well. He also received an email from Tony McNichol from the Pinelands Commission regarding the scenic byway that he later forwarded to the group.

Eric Husta mentioned the last of the park's three flag placements in the Veterans Cemetery had just taken place that day. The construction at Lake Lenape East is fully underway with good progress being made. He also mentioned a bank stabilization project at Lake Lenape West intended to fix a chronic erosion problem.

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Bill Reinert discussed Rail to Trail projects he had visited recently and noted how well they were designed and maintained. This led to an update on his participation as a member of the steering committee for Bikeway West. He presented a few of the design challenges being considered including the section of bikeway along Route 54 out of Hammonton, various private property ownership issues and multiple wetland encroachments.

He also updated the group on climate change talk being given by Amy Menzel at the Cape May Convention Hall on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10am – 1pm. He also briefed the group on his recent trip to Massachusetts.

Steve Fiedler concluded the evening by highlighting an article referencing Clark’s Landing in a book entitled, “Absegami Yesteryear”.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, January 5th , 2022 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