

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting September 2nd, 2020 online via Webex**

In attendance:

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

**Members Present** - Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Heather Warburton

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

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino - absent

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

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

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Bill Reinert discussed his recent experience with spotted lantern flies in Haddon Township. Discussion was had about the grassland habitat project located on the FAA's property. He expressed his feeling the board should have been notified about the purchase of an old horse farm in Hamilton Township and the potential role the parcel will play regarding habitat restoration and offset of what is being developed on FAA property.

Bill also mentioned a new study involving red knots and the impact an offshore windmill farm might have on their migration. He concluded by updating the group on his time in July and August spent observing Piping Plover nests in the area of Corson's Inlet State Park.

Heather Warburton updated the group on the town of Edison's signing on to the "Off Fossil Fuel" bill. This is the fifth and largest town to sign on and pledge to be 100% renewable by 2030.

Steve Fiedler informed the group he has been continuing work on his movie project with the "Friends along the Mullica" group. He is still interested in giving invasive species talks and discussing how these species tend to adversely affect river and stream ecosystems.

Steve updated the group on the grants he is involved with including one to install three refillable water bottle stations in Galloway. The first will be installed near the Imagination Station adjacent to Patriot Lake, the second at the Tartaglio Sports Complex, and the third at the Pitney Road Park complex in the near future. He also informed the group the Galloway Green Market concluded September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and touched on the work at the Glenn Property to remove invasive species found there.

Discussion was had on the new sidewalk project along Pitney Road, the name change from "Freeholder" to "Commissioner" and the Smithville Town Commons basin supporting "managed grasslands".

Greg Brookins discussed county "no mow zones" and the overwhelming presence of mosquito populations throughout the county. Discussion was also had regarding frequent road flooding and tree damage as well as an assessment of the condition of Bikeway East.

Dick Colby updated the group on the Statewide North-South Trail he has been working to complete. He

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inquired about access through Mares Run to the Lenape A tract. Eric Husta agreed to inquire about the level of public access there or the feasibility of adding it.

Eric updated the group on the status of 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 how busy the parks have been with an increase in demand due to people vacationing locally this season.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT or via Webex.**

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