

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting February 6<sup>th</sup> , 2019 at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Bill Reinert – Chairman

**Members Present** - Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman, Steve Fiedler, Dick Colby, Ken Sooy, Jill Miles

**Members Absent** - James Galvin, Elmer Ripley, Heather Warburton

**Freeholder Representative** – James Bertino - present

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

**Secretary** - Eric Husta – C.P.S. – absent (Adam Witcraft- C.P.M. filling in)

Guests in Attendance- Friends of the Parks (Joint meeting), Fred Akers, (GEHWA)

**Friends of the Parks topics:**

Carl Farrel discussed the Fossil sign to be installed at the Taylor Avenue train station commemorating the accident that occurred there.

Dick Colby spoke about connecting the Atlantic County Bikeway West as a future goal.

The PEAB meeting opened with the flag salute at 7 PM and introductions.

**Roundtable Discussion topics:**

Mike Hogan detailed the upcoming “stream schools” being held at Camden County College April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned the stream schools at Batsto on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and the NJDEP watershed ambassador stream assessment workshop being held at Batsto on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mike also mentioned his Land and Water Trust orchid walk at Estell Manor Park on the third Saturday in July.

Bill Reinert updated the group on the plans Camden and Gloucester Counties have to develop their own interconnected bike trail that will eventually connect to the Atlantic County Bikeway West.

Dick Colby also updated the group on the status of the blue-blazed statewide trail he has been working on.

Adam Witcraft mentioned the need for the original maps in the brochure so the County’s final printing could take place.

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Greg Brookins discussed the renewed interest at the state level in constructing bridges over South River and Stephen's Creek. He mentioned the South River project is shovel ready and only in need of funding.

Adam Witcraft discussed the restructuring of the Parks volunteer program.

Mike Hogan suggested reaching out to corporate companies to reach their employees for volunteering and also reaching out to the local Casinos as well.

Bill Reinert suggested utilizing swamp milkweed for our relocated butterfly garden. He also updated the group on the increasing oyster industry in New Jersey. Further discussion was had about the oyster documentary previously discussed. Bill also mentioned the innovative techniques being employed to use dredge spoils to combat sea level rise.

Ken Sooy mentioned the Galloway Historical Society.

Steve Fiedler updated the group on his "Friends Along the Mullica" efforts. The group is focusing first on illegal dumping sites.

Adam Witcraft mentioned the County's newest acquisition of 38 acres adjacent to Betsy Scull Road that joins the existing Pine Forest and Riverbend tracts.

Greg Brookins briefly mentioned the status of the bid to redo the Mott's Creek bulkhead area.

Fred Akers mentioned he will be contacting the Atlantic County Road Department to add replacement signs along the Great Egg Harbor tributaries where they are missing. He also mentioned the Great Egg Harbor river signs being added at Lake Lenape West.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

**The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.**

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive  
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator  
Diana Rutala, Dep. County Administrator  
Amy Gatto, Chairwoman - Board of Freeholders  
James Bertino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative  
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works  
All Advisory Board Members