

Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting November 6th , 2019 at the Canale Training Center

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman

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

Members Absent - Elmer Ripley, Heather Warburton

Freeholder Representative – James Bertino - absent

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

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

Member of the Public - Chris Bonsall

Old Business:

The meeting opened with a flag salute at 7:00 PM

The lecturer for the evening was Scott Stueber, a fisheries biologist for NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife. His presentation focused on the recycling and reuse of oyster shells on local oyster beds in the Mullica River. This is a healthy, self-sustaining population of local oysters the division is attempting to augment and enlarge in the hopes of one day using transplants from this area to jump start recovery efforts in other nearby depleted populations.

The division's efforts are focusing now on the process of collecting, storing, curing, and replanting oyster shells. These efforts will not only help ensure the survival of current stocks but keep empty shells out of local landfills as well.

This topic generated considerable interest which led to a lengthy question and answer period following the presentation, in turn shortening our roundtable discussion.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

General discussion was had regarding the Bikeway West, hurdles to overcome moving forward, and the plans of some adjoining counties and how that may affect the bikeway in Atlantic County.

Dick Colby and Steve Fiedler discussed Dick's walking map of Egg Harbor City. Steve noted how comprehensive the guide was and complemented Dick on his work. Discussion was had on the guide and some of the features noted in it as well as possible strategies for updating the graphic and map content.

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Steve Fiedler also briefed the group on his continuing efforts on the Friends of the Mullica River project.

Ken Sooy updated the group on the County's work at Motts Creek. He noted a concrete wall has been built along the property line as part of the project.

Jill Miles discussed the recent increase in kissing bug reports. She also noted they are often confused with assassin bugs.

Member of the public, Chris Bonsall, talked briefly about the topic of bikeway east and west

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 4th , 2019, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT in Classroom 4.

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