



## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2022 – Virtual Meeting**

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Eric Agren, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Russell Price,  
Alternate: Carl Ford, Ken Miller

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid, Ashley Morrell

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

Public – Mr. Mo Perera

Guests: None

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order via a Zoom video conference at 7:04 P.M.

Swearing in of members – Adam Reed swore in 4 members whose terms had expired at the end of 2021. Messrs. Rodack and Komczyk were sworn in for three year terms as regular members and Messrs. Ford and Miller were sworn in as alternate members for 1 year terms.

Adam asked that each member complete the Oath of Office form at the next in-person meeting.

### **WDEC Reorganization:**

Miriam asked for nominations for committee chairperson. Marilyn nominated Miriam and Russell seconded the nomination. There were no other candidates nominated. The chairperson was elected by all members via voice vote with no objections.

Miriam asked for nominations for committee vice-chairperson. Miriam nominated Ed and Russell seconded the nomination. There were no other candidates nominated. The vice-chairperson was elected by all members via voice vote with no objections.

Miriam asked for nominations for committee secretary. Miriam nominated Rich and Ed seconded the nomination. There were no other candidates nominated. The secretary was elected by all members via voice vote with no objections.

Miriam asked for nominations for committee treasurer. Ed nominated Eric and Russell seconded the nomination. There were no other candidates nominated. The treasurer was elected by all members via voice vote with no objections.

**Secretary's Report – Meeting Minutes** –The draft minutes were reviewed and after discussion two changes were suggested. Miriam made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. And Ed seconded it. The motion passed with no objections.

**Secretary's Report - Correspondence received** – Rich discussed the correspondence the WDEC received, as follows:

- ANJEC annual dues request
- NJDEP LOI application made for Block 365, Lots 1-9 and Block 367, Lots 1-23,
- Letter from DuBois and Associates regarding wetlands delineation line verification application made to NJDEP for Block 374, Lots 2.08, 3.02, 3.21, 3.22 and 4.04
- Letter from two West Deptford residents to DuBois Associates and the WDEC, the WD Construction Official, the WD Township Planning Board, the Gloucester County Planning Board, and the Gloucester County Soil Conservation District providing comments on the development of parcels near their property. Rich previously emailed the letters to WDEC members for review and comment.

After discussion of the concerns raised in the residents' letter, it was decided that the letter deserved a response.  
Action Item - Adam said he would look into the matter with township officials.

## **Old Business**

**Township Liaison Report:** Adam Reid introduced WD Committeewoman Ashley Morrell as the new township liaison to the WDEC going forward. Adam thanked the commission for its efforts and said that he enjoyed his time working with the commission. Ashley said she looks forward to working with the WDEC in the future and has a passion for environmental matters as well as the township's recreation and beautification activities.

Adam provided an update on the items below:

**Possible Butterfly Garden at Rivergate Park** – In design phase.

**Progression of other projects, disc golf, park upgrades, etc.** – Disc golf is in the design phase. All thirteen pocket park upgrades were completed.

**Solvay and Township Water Supply Wells** – Adam confirmed the water treatment system was online and operating on supply well #8. He said Solvay will be drilling an exploratory well near supply well #3 to determine if water of suitable quality and volume is available to replace well #3.

Miriam thanked Adam for his work and guidance to the commission over the past several years and welcomed Ashley as the new commission liaison.

**Student Representative Report:** - Jake reported that they were doing in-person classes and had a few snow days off. Miriam asked him to start thinking about a new student representative to take his place upon graduation. He said he will look into possible candidates and perhaps have them attend a meeting.

**Chairperson's Report:** Miriam reported on the following items:

**Update on signs on Nature Trail** – Ed reported no action has been taken with respect to the vandalized sign. He said he will work with Karl Anderson and Bill Gigliotti to complete the sign upgrades as time, availability and weather permit. He also said he would share the information from Karl Anderson regarding the survey of the flora and fauna in the vicinity of the nature trail.

## **New Business:**

**Seedling distribution for Earth Day** - Miriam reported that she met with Latiya and ordered approximately 450 blossoming trees at an approximate cost of \$320.

**Earth Day Activities** – Miriam noted that Earth Day activities would take place on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and asked members to put it on their calendars. In preparation for Earth Day, Miriam asked Ken to investigate the cost of 200 LED light bulbs and report at next month's meeting.

**Library Clean-up on Earth Day** – Miriam asked Jake to see if there are any volunteers to assist in library clean-up, planting and mulching on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jake said he would see if anyone is interested in volunteering.

**ANJEC Annual Fees** – Rich discussed the proposed expenditure of \$475 to pay for the annual ANJEC membership fee. The fee covers ANJEC membership for seven regular WDEC members, two WDEC alternates and Committeewoman Morrell and student representative J. Cobb. Miriam made a motion that the expenditure be approved and Ed seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed with no objection. **Action Item - Miriam asked Rich to complete the fee application and submit it to the township for payment.**

**Communication with Residents:** Nothing new to report.

**LNG Project Update** – Marilyn said other towns had passed resolutions opposing the transportation of LNG through their jurisdictions.

**Grant Applications:** Nothing new to report. Although no new grants, Carl mentioned the upcoming March 12<sup>th</sup> Pinelands Short Course that is taking place at Stockton University.



**Planning Board** - Eric reported that the proposed Leonard Lane warehouse project is scheduled to be heard at the Planning Board's January 25, 2022 meeting. Ken provided WDEC comments on the project for submittal to the Planning Board.

**Financial Report:** Eric emailed the financial report to WDEC and reported a trust fund balance of \$19,207.48. The unused funds from the general 2021 WDEC budget were rolled into the 2022 trust fund balance. West Deptford township's budget is expected to be adopted in April at which time WDEC's budget allocation will be made.

**Public Comment:** None

**For the Good of the Order:**

Ed asked Rich if he had seen any correspondence from Tall Pine Preserves requesting any fee payment. Rich replied that he had not seen any. Ed said he would investigate the matter further.

In preparation for West Deptford day in September, Miriam asked Ken and Eric to check with their Rowan University contacts to see if they are available to participate in WDEC activities.

**Adjourn:** Miriam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Russell made the motion and it was seconded by Eric. Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M. with no objections.

**Dates to Remember**

February 28<sup>th</sup> EC meeting, 7:00 P.M, virtual or in-person - TBD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'RR', followed by the date '3/1/22' written in the same ink.

Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary