



Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2023

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Carl Ford, Russel Price, Ahmad Tamous
Alternate: Ken Miller

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid (arrived at 7:15 P. M.)

Student Representative: Kathryn Pitts, Colwyn Moser

Public – Mr. Mo Perera, Ms. Sharon Ceravolo

Guests: None

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Secretary's Report – Meeting Minutes – Rich asked for a motion to review the draft March meeting minutes. Miriam made the motion and Russ seconded it. There were no objections. The draft minutes were reviewed and several changes were suggested. Rich asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes as amended. Ed made the motion and Miriam seconded it. The motion passed with no objections.

Adam arrived to the meeting after the meeting minutes were approved and he had one change to the previously approved minutes. Miriam made a motion to amend the approved minutes with Adam's suggested change and it was seconded by Russ. A vote was taken and there were no objections.

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

- TRC's LSRP Letter dated March 13, 2023 regarding the Scope of Remediation – ISRA Industrial Establishment for the property located at 1225 Forest Parkway, West Deptford, NJ, Block 346.10, Lot 1

The document was circulated via email prior to the meeting and also passed around for review at the meeting.

Old Business

Township Liaison Report: As mentioned above, Adam had a suggested change to the approved minutes and his comment was incorporated into the approved minutes. In addition, Adam reported that Rivergate park improvements should be substantially completed by the end of April.

Student Representative Report: - Colwyn brought in a sample tray of the milkweed plants being grown and talked about the way they should be distributed to the public on the Earth Day celebration. The milkweed plants are being donated by Michael William's Florist and Greenhouse. Miriam asked Colwyn to see if he can get some business cards from the business in case people are interested in visiting the greenhouse.

Chairperson's Report: Miriam and Ed reported on the following items:

Update on Nature Trail – Ed reported that he, Ms. Ceravolo and Bill Gigliotti walked the Nature Trail and discussed various aspects of the trail improvements. Ed provided a sketch of the proposed improvements, including two new trails and two observation platforms. Ed also mentioned that there may be benches placed along the existing Nature Trail. Trail improvements should be completed by the end of the year. The timeframe for the completion of the observation platforms is still to be determined.

Miriam reported that Canadian researchers may have come up with a way to remove "forever chemicals". Ken mentioned that there were also various research activities being progressed in the United States. Miriam reported that she, Ed and Latiya had a conference call with a representative from Solvay regarding Solvay's participation in Earth Day activities. Miriam reported that Solvay will be providing approximately 20 volunteers and materials on April 22nd to assist with cleanup and landscape work at library as well as at other township locations to be determined by Bill Gigliotti.

Earth Day Activities – Miriam asked for all WDEC members to be at Earth Day activities on Saturday morning at 9 A.M., or a little before. She assigned various tasks to several WDEC members and herself in advance of Saturday. In addition, she reported that the tree seedlings will be received by Latiya on Thursday and will email WDEC members if they need to separate the seedling on Friday evening. The overall plan for Earth Day is to distribute tree seedlings, milkweed plants, and remaining WDEC tote bags from last year to those visiting our tables. Marilyn provided WDEC members with information regarding invasive plants in NJ – learn before you plant.

New Business:

In addition to the work on April 22nd, Miriam reported that Solvay was also interested in partnering with the township to complete a larger project. Various ideas were discussed, such as, removal of invasive species from the Nature Trail, improvements at the Field of Dreams, or perhaps participation in a disc golf course project. Miriam will discuss these ideas with the Solvay representative to get a sense of their interest, timing and scope definition.

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report.

Project Updates – Marilyn reported that she attended a meeting regarding Rutgers' continuing study of forever chemicals in the bloodstream of Paulsboro residents.

Marilyn also reported that she heard there were significant concerns by Philadelphia and other communities regarding the transport of LNG through their towns.

Grant Applications: Nothing new to report.

Planning Board - Rich reported on Eric's behalf that the Board's May agenda had one item on it as follows: a minor site revision regarding the Presidential car wash that is now under new ownership.

Miriam had two questions – First, was the land near the Rite Aid (the old golf range) on Kings Highway going to be leased out by the township for bus storage? Adam answered and said the township does not own the land, therefore, it would not be involved in any leasing activity. Second, was there going to be an access road from Ogden Station Road into the new part of the Park West development? Ahmad said he would look at the plans and report back to WDEC.

Financial Report: Eric emailed the financial report to WDEC members and it showed the WDEC was allocated \$4,000 under the approved township budget.

Public Comment: Ms. Ceravolo asked about the sneaker collection program. Miriam answered that the program was doing well and there were collection locations at the middle school, the library and RiverWinds.

For the Good of the Order:

Ed shared a copy of a letter from Solvay dated March 21, 2023 asking permission to sample the wells on his property. Solvay's letter stated that a groundwater monitoring well located near the property showed slightly higher results for PFNA and they wanted to check his well to confirm it still meets NJDEP's safe drinking water standards. According to the letter, the well on the property was sampled twice before, once in 2014 and again in 2019.

Colwyn alerted people to the roadwork that started on Red Bank Avenue

Marilyn reported that she asked the Rutgers researchers why she couldn't get her blood tested as part of their research and they responded that she could not be tested because she wasn't a Paulsboro resident.

Adjourn: Miriam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed made the motion and it was seconded by Russ, Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:31 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

April 22nd
May 15th
June 26th

Earth Day Activities
EC meeting, 7:00 P.M., RiverWinds
EC Meeting 7:00 P.M., RiverWinds



5/16/23

Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary