



## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2023**

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

**WD Twp Representative:** Adam Reid (arrived at 7:25 P. M.)  
**Student Representative:** Colwyn Moser (arrived 7:11 P.M., left 7:21 P.M.)  
**Public** – Mr. Mo Perera  
**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

**Secretary's Report – Meeting Minutes** – Rich asked for a motion to review the draft April meeting minutes. Miriam made the motion and Russ seconded it. There were no objections. The draft minutes were reviewed and one change was 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. Eric abstained from voting.

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

- NJDOT's Application for Waterfront Development Permit for repairs to the bulkhead located on Mantua Creek. The document was circulated via email prior to the meeting and also passed around for review at the meeting. There was no further discussion regarding the correspondence.

### **Old Business**

**Township Liaison Report:** Adam said he had nothing new to report. Miriam asked about construction on Riverwinds drive and he said he thought they may be installing rumble strips in the road at various locations in order to reduce vehicle speeds. Miriam also asked Adam why the township does not collect grass and yard waste separately for composting as they had several years ago. Adam said he wasn't sure but would look into the matter and report back.

**Student Representative Report:** - Colwyn said he had nothing new to report and said the high school graduation would be June 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Update on Nature Trail** – Ed reported that there was nothing new regarding the nature trail other than Bill Gigliotti continued working on the trail improvements. **Action Item** - Miriam asked Ed to look into what signs had to be moved and whether we needed new signs for replacement or for new locations.

Miriam asked for input on Earth Day activities and several items were noted for next year as follows: the need to bring paperweights to hold things down, try to make sure we get the tree seedlings we request, consider getting milkweed again for distribution, and better coordination of Solvay volunteers' efforts.

**West Deptford Fun Day/Earth Day Activities** – Miriam asked for input for Fun Day activities scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, it was decided to purchase tote bags for giveaway. Miriam will provide costs at our next meeting. Eric will invite Dan Duran for fun day. In addition, we will invite the South Jersey Archeology Society to participate again. We will consider using Insectarium's services again, and Eric volunteered to look into other potential options. We will also seek to get fur pelts from Zander for display and include the guess the weight of the pumpkin activity.

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

Project Updates – Marilyn reported that there was a big protest regarding the LNG project slated for May 31. Ed handed out a copy of an editorial from the April 27<sup>th</sup> South Jersey Times entitled “The wheels come off LNG trains – maybe”.

Grant Applications: Nothing new to report.

**Planning Board** - Eric reported on the following items: A resident's request for subdivision of his land was denied because it would result in a non-conforming lot, Olympia installed a truck weigh scale on its property, the Presidential car wash application amendment will be heard on May 23, along with a property owner request for a lot line adjustment, and a lot line adjustment associated with RiverWinds.

An action item from last meeting was raised regarding the access road to Park West – Rich showed the conceptual plans for the Park West development to the group and the plans show an access road to Park West from Ogden Station Road. Eric pointed out that the road is not a through road.

**Financial Report**: Eric emailed the financial report to WDEC members and it showed the general budget balance to be \$4,000. The trust fund balance is \$21,091.48. There was also discussion among the group about the environmental commission being prohibited from making monetary donations to outside organizations such as Petsavers and the Gloucester County Nature Club. The prohibition is apparently due to the fact that the monies originated from an account that had public money in it as well as donations from various companies. Action Item – Adam said he would look into the matter further and advise the commission of his findings.

**Public Comment**: None.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Marilyn talked about the serious problem of invasive plants in NJ. Others in the group talked about the use of goats to control invasive plants

**Adjourn**: Miriam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken made the motion and it was seconded by Russ, Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M. with no objections.

**Dates to Remember**

June 26<sup>th</sup>

EC Meeting 7:00 P.M., RiverWinds



Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary