



Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2023

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Ahmad Tamous, Eric Agren, Carl Ford
Alternate: None

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Sienna Struzynski, Kathryn Pitts

Public – Mr. Mo Perera, Ms. Tracie Farina

Guests: None

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Secretary's Report – Meeting Minutes – Rich asked for a motion to review the draft May meeting minutes. Ed made the motion and Miriam seconded it. There were no objections to the motion. 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.

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

- Letter dated May 12, 2023 from the Gloucester County Nature Club regarding West Deptford's feral cat management program.
- Letter dated June 14, 2023 from Remington and Vernick Engineers regarding a wetlands permit application to NJDEP regarding drainage improvements at Sherwood park
- Letter dated June 22 from DuBois and Associates requesting a wetlands Letter of Interpretation from NJDEP for Block 374, Lot 4:03, located at 202 Ogden Station Road.

Old Business

Township Liaison Report: Adam talked about West Deptford's 2023 annual water quality report and said that the report met all regulatory limits except for sodium. The report showed sodium concentrations ranging from 46.5 ppm to 101 ppm. The regulatory limit is 50 ppm. Rich asked Adam about future water quality with respect to USEPA's recently proposed drinking water standards of 4 ppt for PFOS and PFOA. Adam said that the township monitored contaminant concentrations at its source wells and that NJ American Water monitored concentrations in its source water supplied to West Deptford. Adam reported that West Deptford's water supply is typically a blend of 60 percent NJ American water and 40 percent West Deptford well water and that the township would try to meet the new standard by optimizing the blend of water from West Deptford wells and NJ American Water.

Adam also provided an update on the parks. He said the Field of Dreams park would be temporarily closed because of safety concerns with regard to some of the playground structures. The structures will be evaluated and options determined based on the township engineer's report.

Miriam asked Sienna and Kathryn to speak to the high school science coordinator to see if there is another student who may be interested in becoming a student representative to replace Colwyn Moser who is headed to college.

High School Student Representative Report: - Sienna reported that the boy's soccer team and girl's field hockey team will be conducting a joint community cleanup day sometime in August.

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

Update on Nature Trail – Ed said there was nothing new to report regarding the nature trail expansion project.

Feral cat discussion – Feral cat management and the Gloucester County Nature Club letter were discussed. Adam said that the township responded to the Nature Club's letter and that he would provide a copy of the response to the Environmental Commission.

Quote for tote bags – Miriam provided a copy of a quote she solicited for the procurement of canvas tote bags with the West Deptford Environmental Commission logo. After discussion, Rich made a motion authorizing the expenditure of \$949.00 to purchase 300 tote bags, consistent with the quote received. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Partnership project with Solvay – Miriam led a discussion about potential projects for Solvay and said she planned to invite a Solvay representative to the July meeting. Potential projects discussed were addressing invasive plants along the nature trail and possible participation in the disc golf project.

New Business

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report.

Project Updates – Marilyn said that there were ongoing protests planned opposing the LNG project.

Plans for West Deptford Fun Day – Fun day activities were discussed and it was noted that Insectarium would not be available to participate this year. Eric said he would send some information regarding possible alternatives. Miriam said we would be using the tote bags as a giveaway item and that we would also be doing the guess the weight of the pumpkin activity again. In addition, we agreed we would do the display of fur pelts and artifact display provided by the Gloucester County Archeological Society. Eric also said that Dr. Dan Duran would be attending from Rowan University.

Planning Board - Eric reported that the car wash project was approved at the Planning Board meeting and that the lot line adjustment for Matt Moore's property would be heard at a future meeting. In addition, Eric confirmed that the Park West access road is not a through road, according to the conceptual plan that the Planning Board work group reviewed.

Financial Report: No financial report was available for the meeting but Eric said he would email the information to WDEC members once he received it.

Public Comment: Miriam welcomed Ms. Farina to our meeting. Ms. Farina suggested that WDEC may wish to consider Americorps volunteers for its projects.

For the Good of the Order:

Ed said that Solvay provided the sample results for his well and they were slightly above standard for PFOS. Solvay installed a point of entry treatment system for his well water. Ed said they will be sampling the system to ensure proper operation before putting it into service. In the meantime, Solvay is providing bottled water. Ed also said he thought others on his street would also be getting treatment systems installed. He also said that Solvay would be maintaining the systems in the future to ensure proper operation and treatment.

Ed also said he would be included in the Rutgers Paulsboro study of PFOS exposure.

Adjourn: Miriam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed made the motion and it was seconded by Rich, Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

July 17th

EC Meeting 7:00 P.M., RiverWinds

 7/18/23

Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary