



## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2023**

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Russel Price, Eric Agren, Ken Miller  
Alternate: None

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Kathryn Pitts

Public – Mr. Mo Perera, Ms. Tracie Farina

Guests: Ms. Kaitlin Maloney - Solvay

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

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

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

- Letter dated July 10, 2023 regarding an NJDEP freshwater wetlands permit application submitted on behalf of Deptford Property Owner, LLC for a property located at 1300 Imperial Way.
- Letter dated July 5, 2023 from Solvay providing public notification regarding its intent to modify an existing Treatment Works Approval for its inorganic wastewater treatment system in accordance with NJDEP regulations

The letters were previously distributed via email and hard copies were also circulated for review at the meeting. Additional details regarding the wetlands application are on file with the West Deptford municipal clerk.

Ed had a question regarding the wetlands letter and expressed concerns regarding the proposed filling of wetlands on the property. Adam said he thought the plans showed a compensatory wetlands area identified on the property. Rich said he would investigate the matter further and report back to the WDEC.

### **Old Business**

**Township Liaison Report:** Adam answered a question from Rich regarding the 2022 Water Quality Report showing results for PFOA and PFOS for water supplied by NJ American Water. After raising the question with NJ American Water, Adam explained that the "range" shown in the water quality report was based on the highest and lowest concentrations of individual samples while the "highest" concentration was calculated by using a running annual average of quarterly results.

On a separate subject, Rich asked Adam if the Township would be commenting on the proposed NJDEP lawsuit settlement with Solvay and he said the Township would be submitting comments on the matter. The comment period opens on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, Adam reported that they are waiting on the Engineer's report regarding the Field of Dreams structures.

**High School Student Representative Report:** - Kathryn reported that there was no action taken yet on finding an additional student representative, but that the matter will be pursued once school starts up again.

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

Update on Nature Trail – Ed had nothing new to report except that the township workers were currently very busy.

Tote bags – Miriam reported that the tote bags have been received.

Wildflower Planting – Miriam spoke about potential for additional wildflower planting in the Fall, once township resources become available to do the work. Action Item – Miriam to follow-up with Bill Gigliotti on seed availability.

Partnership project with Solvay – Miriam introduced Ms. Maloney of Solvay to the meeting attendees and the group discussed potential projects that Solvay volunteers may be interested in working on with the township. Some projects discussed were:

- Addressing invasive plants along the nature trail – Action Item – Ed or Miriam to call Eric Mollenhauer of the Gloucester County Nature Club to see if he is available to attend our August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Possible participation in the disc golf project – Action Item – Once Rivergate Park project is completed, Adam to contact Mitchell, disc golf designer, to look at the potential for reduced scope disc golf course layout.
- Continued participation in Earth Day activities
- Educational programs working with the library – Action Item – Miriam to provide a point of contact for the library to Ms. Maloney.

### **New Business**

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report. The group talked about reviving the WDEC Facebook page and potentially adding an Instagram account. Action Item - Additional details, such as account administrators and logistics, need to be worked out so that the matter can be discussed at our August meeting.

Project Updates – Nothing new to report.

Plans for West Deptford Fun Day – Fun Day activities were discussed and things are progressing. The only outstanding item was finding an alternate vendor to the Insectarium. Action Item – Eric and Miriam will investigate a potential new vendor to replace Insectarium and soliciting proposals if a suitable vendor is found.

**Planning Board** - Eric reported that the lot line adjustment for Matt Moore's property was approved. He also said two projects may be reviewed at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The projects are: 1) Construction of an argon storage tank at the Johnson Matthey facility and 2) a site plan adjustment associated with the Vintage Equities, LLC property. Eric said he would circulate the plans to WDEC members once he received them.

**Financial Report:** Financial reports were circulated by Eric via email prior to the meeting. Eric reported that the trust fund balance was \$20,142.48 and the general account balance was \$3993.68.

**Public Comment:** None


### **For the Good of the Order:**

Ed said he received his blood results back as part of the Rutgers Paulsboro PFOS study and that he forwarded them to his doctor for review and further discussion. Marilyn talked about the benefit of white clover instead of grass. Miriam reported that there was a subcommittee appointed by the mayor to discuss the library move and that a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M. It was not clear if the meeting was open to the public or not.

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

### **Dates to Remember**

August 21st      EC Meeting 7:00 P.M., RiverWinds

 8/22/23

Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary