



Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2022

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Ahmad Tamous, Eric Agren, Alternates: Carl Ford, Ken Miller (voting alternate)

WD Twp Representative: None

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

Public – Mr. Mo Perera

Guests: Mr. Colwyn Moser, Ms. Sienna Struzynski, Ms. Kathryn Pitts – West Deptford High School students

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

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

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

- The Friends of Tall Pines State Preserve letter dated July 5, 2022 acknowledging WDEC's donation and confirmed 2022 membership.

The abovementioned correspondence was circulated to the group for review during the meeting and also emailed to WDEC members for their review prior to the meeting.

Rich also circulated West Deptford's 2022 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report that he received in the mail for WDEC members for their review.

Old Business

Township Liaison Report: No representative was present at the meeting.

Student Representative Report: Jake said that this would be his last meeting because he would be heading to college. Miriam thanked him for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

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

Update on signs on Nature Trail and trail extensions – Ed reported that he needs to meet with Bill Gigliotti and others in order to progress this project. He said he would do so as time and schedules permit. Miriam said she spoke with Bill and he is aware of the project and will work with the WDEC to progress it as time and resources permit.

Turtle Crossing Signs – Miriam investigated the placement of the signs with the township and determined that it would be better to erect the signs in the spring next year coinciding with when the turtles lay their eggs.

Insectarium and butterfly pavilion – Miriam said she received an invoice from Insectarium that was incorrect. She alerted them to the error and they resubmitted a corrected invoice in the amount of \$822. Insectarium is scheduled to be at WD Fun Day from 1-3 P.M. Miriam will make arrangements with Barb Lamplugh to submit a 50% deposit to Insectarium to hold the date. In addition, Eric noted that Dr. Dan Duran confirmed his participation for Fun Day activities free of charge.

Wildflower planting update - Miriam said the township and Bill Gigliotti are interested in expanding wildflower planting areas in the township, perhaps expanding the planting at Strawberry Vale, and adding new plantings along RiverWinds drive, or Rivergate Park. Miriam also asked WDEC members to think about other locations that may be suitable for plantings. Rich suggested that perhaps we should ask for public input also via the WDEC Facebook page also. **Action Item – Miriam to follow-up with Latiya and Becky to access the Facebook page to seek public input.**

Mini-tote giveaway at WD Fun Day – Miriam solicited proposals from three vendors for the production of 150 small tote bags. After discussion of the proposals a motion was made by Ken to authorize Miriam to procure 300 tote bags from Kimco Graphics at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections. In addition to the tote giveaway there was discussion about also giving away the LED light bulbs that were left over from April's seedling distribution. Action Item – Miriam to follow-up with Latiya for additional details on the number of bulbs left and logistics for WD Fun Day giveaway.

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report.

Project Updates – Marilyn provided two handouts as follows and discussed them in some detail with the group:

- League of Conservation Voters press release dated June 13, 2022 entitled "Environmental Groups Urge Governor Murphy to Reject William Transco's Regional Energy Access Expansion Project"
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network LNG Update

The information was discussed among the group offering differing viewpoints on the materials provided. Miriam thanked Marilyn for the information and asked that continuing updates be provided to the group as warranted.

Archeological Displays at WD Fun Day – Ed talked about the interesting archeological finds that were being made at National Park battlefield. He suggested that it may be a good idea to display some of the material at our booth on WD Fun Day. A motion was made by Miriam to allow for a table to display the artifacts. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections. There was also discussion about the amount of space needed to display Insectarium items, animal furs, rocks, minerals, fossils and archeological materials as well as the pumpkin giveaway. Miriam made a motion to include the pumpkin giveaway and it was seconded by Marilyn. The motion passed with a 4-2 vote with one abstention.

Planning Board - Eric reported the next meeting was scheduled for July 26 and that he would send the agenda to WDEC members.

Financial Report: Eric provided the financial report via email and circulated the reports for review. He reported the Tall Pines membership fee expenditure of \$100 from the general budget, leaving the remaining balance at \$3,900. He reported the trust fund balance as unchanged from last month.

For the Good of the Order: Ed shared information from a news article regarding the Wetlands Institute and Stockton University's release of baby turtles raised from eggs recovered from turtles injured from collisions with cars. The eggs are recovered and incubated and released by children into wetlands.

Rich talked about a recent PBS Nova program that described the construction and deployment of the James Webb Space Telescope.

Marilyn talked about the invasive plant in her yard and her efforts to contain it and uproot it. The plant is called the chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*). Additional information regarding its control and destruction can be found at <https://homeguides.sfgate.com/destroy-groundcover-called-chameleon-flowerbeds-84561.html>. Thanks to Colwyn for finding this information.

Public Comment: None

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 8:28 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

August 15th
September 17th
September 19th

EC meeting, 7:00 P.M., in-person, RiverWinds
West Deptford Fun Day
EC meeting, 7:00 P.M., in-person, RiverWinds



8/16/22

Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary