



## **Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2022**

**Present:** Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Ed Komczyk, Eric Agren, Alternates: Carl Ford, Ken Miller (both are voting alternates)

**WD Twp Representative:** Adam Reid

**Student Representative:** None

**Public –** Mr. Isaac 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 7:00 P.M.

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

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

- Project application and project plans for the proposed Purple Cloth Recovery Center to be located at Greenwood and Shivers Avenues.

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

### **Old Business**

**Township Liaison Report:** Adam reported on the following items:

- The bid was awarded for the Rivergate Park project and preconstruction meeting will be conducted in the near future.
- The pickle ball courts at West Deptford Park are nearing completion.
- The disc golf project was put on hold until next year in order to re-evaluate the project design and cost.
- Rich asked Adam about the status of the work to replace potable well number 8. Adam stated that the test well was completed and preliminary water samples from the well showed the water to have a high pH.  
Action Item - Rich asked Adam to send the test results to the Environmental Commission. Adam said he would do so.

**Student Representative Report:** No representative was present, although the three guest students said school would be back in session after the Labor Day holiday.

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

**Update on signs on Nature Trail and trail extensions** – Ed handed out a drawing with proposed trail extensions and said he would be working with Bill Gigliotti to investigate the proposed trail locations to determine the amount of work needed to complete the trails and birding platform.

**Insectarium and butterfly pavilion** – Miriam said she discussed payment of the Insectarium invoice with Barb Lamplugh and Barb said she was still waiting for Insectarium's NJ business license. Miriam will follow-up with Barb to determine if the license has been received. If it is not received, it was decided that the Commission would not be using Insectarium's services for WD Fun Day. Eric confirmed that Dr. Dan Duran confirmed his participation for Fun Day activities free of charge. Ed will also be checking on the availability of animal pelts. Miriam asked that volunteers for WD Fun Day show up at 1130 A.M. in order to set up the WDEC booth. She said set-up had to be completed by 12:30 P.M. Colwyn volunteered to put information together on shrubs, trees and plants appropriate for NJ landscapes.

Wildflower planting update - Miriam said the township and Bill Gigliotti are interested in expanding wildflower planting areas in the township, including expanding the planting at Strawberry Vale, and adding new plantings along RiverWinds Drive, or Rivergate Park. Miriam also asked WDEC members and others to think about other locations that may be suitable for plantings. Eric suggested plantings in the area of the old tennis courts off St. Regis Drive.

Mini-tote giveaway at WD Fun Day – Miriam received 300 tote bags and distributed several to those present at the meeting. The remaining totes will be distributed at WD Fun Day. 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 distribution logistics for WD Fun Day giveaway. Carl said he would head up the bulb giveaway as if his schedule allows him to do so.

WDEC Student Representatives – Miriam made a motion to formally accept the three West Deptford High School present as student representatives to the Environmental Committee. The motion was seconded by Ken. The motion passed with no objections. It was noted that the student representatives would have no voting rights on the Commission, but they would be encouraged to attend meetings, provide input and discussion during the meetings. Action Item - Adam was going to check with the solicitor regarding the addition of the student representatives and provide feedback to the Commission.

ANJEC Facebook Information – Miriam encouraged the students to review materials on ANJEC's Facebook page.

Facebook Update – Action item - Miriam said she would work with Becky in September to gain administrative rights to the WDEC Facebook page for herself and Latiya.

#### **New Business:**

Communication with Residents – nothing new to report.

LNG and other Project Updates – Rich had nothing new to report, beyond the project that Eric talked about in the Planning Board discussion of the agenda.

Planning Board - Eric reported the next meeting would have minor items regarding a resident lot line adjustment and directional signs and markings and a guard shack at Amazon. During discussion of the Amazon work, Miriam raised a general question of whether Amazon tractor trailer trucks were allowed to travel on Kings Highway. Ken said the question had been raised several years ago and that the matter was said to be addressed. Action Item - After further discussion by the group, Miriam asked Adam to check the township records of Amazon's project review and approval process to determine if tractor trailer trucks were, in fact, allowed on Kings Highway.

Eric also reported on the Purple Cloth Recovery Center project (an approximately 15,300 square foot building) and that it would be heard at the Planning Board's September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also noted that the location of the project appeared to be a good location to him. Rich raised some questions about the amount of trees to be taken down and Eric said the project would comply with West Deptford's tree ordinance. Rich also said he would send draft comments on the project to Eric and the WDEC via email for consideration at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Financial Report:** Eric provided the financial report via email and circulated the reports for review. He reported the tote bag expenditure of \$999 was taken from the trust fund account leaving a balance of 18,793.48. The general account balance was unchanged at \$3,900.

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

Archeological Talk at WD Library – Ed talked about the interesting archeological finds that were being made at National Park battlefield and that the professor from Rowan leading the excavation will be making a presentation at the West Deptford Library in September.

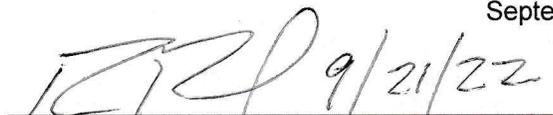
**Public Comment:** Isaac raised a general question about the use of Facebook as a communication tool and its effectiveness in reaching members of the community, and perhaps considering other forms of communication.

**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 8:19 P.M. with no objections.

#### **Dates to Remember**

September 17<sup>th</sup>  
September 19<sup>th</sup>

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



Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary