



Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2021

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Eric Agren, Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Russell Price,
Alternate: Carl Ford

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

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 November's draft meeting minutes. Miriam made the motion and Russell seconded it. The motion passed with no objections. The draft minutes were reviewed and no changes were suggested. Rich asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Miriam made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Russell seconded it. The motion passed with no objections.

Secretary's Report - Correspondence received – Rich discussed the public notice letter the WDEC received regarding the Individual Flood Hazard Permit application to NJDEP on behalf of applicant BCIF Acquisitions, LLC for the proposed warehouse project located at 1847 Crown Point Road. Rich previously emailed the letter to the WDEC for review and comment. The hard copy letter was also circulated at the meeting for review and comment. There were no comments.

Old Business

Township Liaison Report: Adam Reid provided an update on the items below:

Strawberry Vale Wildflower planting - Completed

Possible Butterfly Garden at Rivergate Park – In design phase.

Progression of other projects, disc golf, park upgrades, etc. – Disc golf is in the design phase. All thirteen pocket park upgrades were completed.

Student Representative Report: - Jake reported that his AP chemistry class is studying various areas of surface and groundwater contamination and applying chemical principles to understand the contaminants and the potential effect on the environment. For example, they looked at the drinking water contamination issue that occurred in Flint, Michigan. Miriam thanked him for the update and asked him to keep the WDEC updated on future areas of study.

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

WDEC's LNG Recommendation to the Township – Miriam reported that the Mayor received WDEC's recommendation.

Update on signs on Nature Trail – Ed reported that one of the nature trail signs was vandalized. He also said that he will work with Karl Anderson and Bill Gigliotti to complete the sign upgrades as time, availability and weather permit.

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report.

Seedling distribution – Miriam reported on the email and seedling catalog that she received from Latiya. For group discussion, she proposed getting a reduced number of trees for 2022 because we had many seedlings left over in 2021. She proposed getting 500 seedlings with a focus on getting flowering or fruit-bearing trees. After discussion it was decided that these were good ideas. Miriam said she would discuss the matter with Latiya. In the past the township received the seedlings at no charge. However in order to be prepared if there is a charge for the 2022 seedlings, Miriam asked for approval of an expenditure of up to \$500 of WDEC funds to purchase the seedlings if necessary. The motion was made by Carl and seconded by Rich. The motion passed with no objections.

LNG Project Update – Marilyn said that as far as she knew the LNG transport project applicant did not submit an application by the November 30, 2021 deadline. Rich said there was a notice in the November 8, 2021 Federal Register that temporarily suspended DOT's previous approval of LNG transport via rail car pending further study of the risks and potential impacts. The suspension will be in place until a new rulemaking is in place or June 30, 2024, whichever is earlier.

Grant Applications: Nothing new to report

Planning Board - Eric and Adam reported that the planning board heard the Jobstown Road warehouse application and that it was approved with no variances. There was discussion about the 25 foot buffer and increasing the distance between the facility and the nearby residences. The applicant stated that the footprint of the building could not be modified to increase the 25 foot buffer because of the NJDEP's required setback distance from wetlands. Adam said the applicant would be responsible the improvement of Jobstown Road to address additional vehicle traffic.

Eric reported that the proposed Leonard Lane warehouse project is scheduled to be heard at the Planning Board's January 25, 2022 meeting. Action Item – Eric to provide the plans to Ken for review.

Financial Report: Eric emailed the financial reports to WDEC and reported balances of \$3,720.74 for the general fund and \$15,906.74 for the trust fund. There was no change in the account balances from the previous month.

Public Comment: Mr. Perera wished everyone a happy holiday.

For the Good of the Order: Ed reported on the annual bird count and said 31 species were identified. He said there was a slight decline in numbers from 2020. He also reported that there is a script associated with a video that is being produced (Big Year Eco-challenge), and it has to do with West Deptford's nature trail

Eric reported on a South Jersey Times article reporting on Gloucester county animal shelter's involvement in getting a sick and injured bald eagle rescued.

Eric also wanted to recognize Messrs. Damminger and Sweeney for their long time service to Gloucester county and southern NJ.

Adjourn: Miriam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed made the motion and it was seconded by Carl. Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

January 24th

EC in-person meeting, 7:00 P.M.



Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary