



## **Environmental Commission Virtual Meeting Minutes – February 22 , 2021**

Present via Zoom Meeting: Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Eric Agren, Russel Price, Jr.  
Alternates: Carl Ford, Ken Miller  
WD Twp Representative: None present  
Student Representative: Jake Cobb  
Public - None  
Guests: None  
Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 705 P.M.

**January Meeting Minutes** – Draft meeting minutes were reviewed. Ed made a motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Eric. Motion passed by all members via a voice vote with no objections. Marilyn said she saw a grammatical or typographical error, but could not find it at the time of the meeting.

### **Old Business**

Township Liaison Report: Adam Reid was not present so he could not provide an update on the items below. Miriam said she would put these items on the agenda for the March meeting.

RiverWinds Illegal Wildlife Feeding – No update provided.

Grass Mowing and Wildflowers – No update provided.

Other – West Deptford Storm Water Management Ordinance Status – Rich communicated with Adam via email on 2/22/21 asking about the status of West Deptford's ordinance regarding NJDEP's new storm water management regulations. The ordinance needs to be in place by March 3, 2021. Adam responded and said that unfortunately he would not be attending the February virtual WDEC meeting, however he did send an email to Rich with Frequently Asked Questions regarding the new regulations and asked him to circulate to the group. Rich did so. Miriam asked WDEC members to review the FAQs and will add this item to the agenda for the March meeting.

**Student Representative Report:** Jake said they were still doing a hybrid approach to learning at the high school and were investigating ways where they may be able to go back to full in-person attendance in the next few months.

### **Chairperson's Report:**

Miriam said she had nothing new to report.

### **New Business:**

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report

Earth Day Plans – Miriam informed the committee that the township sent in an application for receipt of seedlings. The committee discussed the best way to distribute the seedling, assuming they are distributed to the township. One suggestion was to have a drive by distribution system in order to minimize person- to-person contact because of pandemic restrictions. Action Item – Given the current pandemic restrictions, Miriam said she would check with Adam to determine if it was appropriate to plan to distribute the seedlings via a drive-by system in April.

LNG Project Update – Marilyn provided an update on the LNG project and said that the Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed a complaint in federal court on January 25, 2021 alleging, generally speaking, that the DRBC's environmental review of the project was deficient in various areas. In addition, Marilyn told the committee about EmpowerNJ and its proposed resolution regarding its opposition to certain proposed projects in NJ that involve fossil fuels. She also mentioned an upcoming virtual meeting that DRBC is hosting on February 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the potential banning of high volume hydraulic fracturing in areas under its jurisdiction. Action Item – Miriam asked Marilyn to email WDEC members information regarding the DRBC meeting.

Solvay NJDEP Natural Resource Damages Lawsuit – Nothing new to report.

Grants: No new ones to report.

**Planning Board** - Eric reported that the Planning Board meeting for February 23<sup>rd</sup> was canceled. He also reported that he had plans for two projects for review as noted below:

Proposed Amazon Parking Lot – Eric received plans for a proposed satellite parking lot at 1927 Nolte Drive for empty Amazon vans.

Proposed Warehouse – Eric received plans for the proposed development at 1847 Crown Point Road and said the plans would be reviewed by the Zoning Board. There was discussion among the group about whether the Planning Board also needed to review the plans. Action Item – Eric said he would check to see if the plans also needed Planning Board review.

Action Item - Eric will provide the plans to Rich for review. Rich will report out to the WDEC membership after the review. Rich will also make the plans available to other WDEC members for review upon their request.

**Financial Report:** Eric sent the financial report from the township to Miriam who shared it with all WDEC members. There was an expenditure of \$475 for ANJEC membership dues. The Trust Fund account balance as of February 22 was \$10,429.65. There was no update on the general WDEC account balance. The committee discussed whether the ANJEC membership fees should have come out of the trust fund or the general WDEC account. Action Item – Miriam will discuss the matter with Adam and report back to the group at the March meeting.

**Public Comment:** No one from the public was present, however, Marilyn spoke on a personal basis as a member of the public and voiced her concern about the possibility of PFAS and their substitute chemicals being present in the soil in and around her home.

**For the Good of the Order:** Nothing to report.

**Adjourn:**

At 7:55 PM, Ed made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Russell. Motion passed via voice vote with no objections.

**Dates to Remember**

March 15, 2021

EC virtual meeting, 7:00 p.m.

  
Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary