



Environmental Commission Virtual Meeting Minutes – March 15, 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: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

Public - None

Guests: Latiya Holmes – West Deptford, drive through seedling distribution for Earth Day

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

February Meeting Minutes – Draft meeting minutes were proposed for review and a motion was made by Miriam to accept them for review. The motion was seconded by Marilyn. One change was suggested by Marilyn. The amended minutes were approved by a voice vote with no objections.

Guest Presentation on Seedling Distribution – Latiya Holmes told the commission she expected the township to receive seedlings on April 15th. She was not sure of the number that the township would receive. Latiya and the commission discussed the logistics of the seedling distribution on April 17th. Latiya also said there would be a shred event the same day as the distribution. It was decided that instead of a drive through distribution it would be better to use a system similar to last year's where the seedlings were placed in individual buckets on tables so that persons could pick out their own seedlings. Four or five tables would be set up outside RiverWinds and people could park in the parking lot outside of the gym entrance. Latiya will work with Miriam on event details including signage, tree planting instructions and laminated labels for the buckets to identify the trees. Carl will work on the logistics of LED light bulb distribution for the event. The setup of tables will need to provide for social distancing and masks must be worn during the event. Miriam thanked Latiya for her efforts and input on this matter.

Old Business

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

RiverWinds Illegal Wildlife Feeding – Adam said the township would be posting signage at different areas of RiverWinds stating that feeding wildlife would be a prohibited activity.

Grass Mowing and Wildflowers – Adam did not have any new information and thought that perhaps the planting along Jessup Road could occur in April or May

West Deptford Storm Water Management Ordinance Status – Adam said he believed the township adopted an ordinance to address the new NJDEP regulations.

Other – Ed asked Adam if he knew anything about the clearcutting of trees along a stream that runs through Sherwood. Adam said it may have been associated with the repair of a sanitary sewer leak, but was not certain. Action Item - Adam said he did not but would check into it and report back to the group..

Rich asked Adam if there was an update regarding the treatment system for the township's potable well. Adam said the treatment system was mechanically complete and they were currently sampling to ensure the system was operating properly and that the treated water met applicable standards. There was discussion about what the treatment process was. Adam said that the treatment system was an ion exchange resin. Action Item – Rich was going to send information to the group about different treatment technologies for PFOAs.

Student Representative Report: Jake said he would work with the commission to get information out to high school students regarding the Earth Day activities. In addition, Jake said that he noticed a significant amount of excavation work being conducted at the Birchly Court Superfund site which is adjacent to the high school. Lastly, at Miriam's request, Jake said he would check with the High school's Key Club to see if he could get some volunteers to help with the commission's Earth Day activities.

Chairperson's Report: Miriam informed commission members that it would be possible to meet in person in April if we wished to do so. The general consensus was to wait and see how things are going with the pandemic and revisit the question.

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report, beyond the general Facebook postings

Arcadis Permit Application for Birchly Ct. – Rich told the commission about the letter received from Arcadis regarding the NJDEP permit. Rich previously emailed the letter to commission members. The email included a link to USEPA's website for the project and included more detailed information on the cleanup. Rich also informed the commission that he contacted the Arcadis contact person in the letter and asked if residents received the letter. The contact person said the letter was mailed to residents in the neighborhood and anyone within 200 feet of the work.

LNG Project Update – Nothing new to report beyond Delaware Riverkeeper Network federal lawsuit.

Solvay NJDEP Natural Resource Damages Lawsuit – Nothing new to report on the lawsuit however as an aside Marilyn said she contacted Solvay asking about the potential for soil contamination on her property. A Solvay spokesperson called her back and said that they may be eliminating the PFOA replacement chemical compounds by June 2021. Marilyn asked if they would test her soil to check for the chemicals and the person said there were no approved test methods to do so. Marilyn also checked with NJDEP and the NJDEP said they would get back to her.

Potential 2021 Projects for the Environmental Commission – Adam raised the possibility of a project that the environmental commission could pursue in 2021. Potential candidates were contribution to the Jessup Road wildflower planting, new butterfly or bee gardens put in certain township parks as part of the township's park revitalization efforts, removal and replacement of dead trees along the entrance to Rivergate Park, and potential for contribution to a new disc golf course. Miriam thanked Adam for his suggestion and input and asked commission members to think about the matter further and be prepared to discuss potential projects and their implementation at the April meeting.

Grants: No new ones to report, however there was discussion about the availability of \$1,500 grants from ANJEC for various environmental projects. Miriam asked commission members to contact her if they wanted to work on a grant application and they could work on the application together.

Planning Board - Eric and Rich talked about the two projects below:

Proposed Amazon Parking Lot 1927 Nolte Drive – Rich asked commission members to review the previously emailed draft comments he sent. He also said if anyone wanted to see the documents he would make them available to them. **Action Item** – **Once finalized, Rich will put the comments on Environmental Commission letterhead and submit to Eric for subsequent submittal to the Planning Board.** The matter was not on the Planning Board agenda for March, but may be on the April agenda.

Proposed Warehouse – 1847 Crown Point Road – Rich informed the committee that the commission's draft comments were finalized and submitted to the zoning board for their consideration. Rich attended the zoning board meeting and told the commission that the applicant had several experts testify regarding site development, noise attenuation, environmental remediation, and traffic flow, among other things. The developer's LSRP said the project would be managed in accordance with NJDEP regulations. The property sale has not yet closed, but presumably will close now that the zoning board has given its approval.

Financial Report: Eric sent the financial report from the township to all WDEC members. The trust fund balance as of March 15 is \$14,406.74 which reflects a carryover of \$3977.09 in unspent monies from 2020. Eric said the township's general budget would be introduced on March 17, and it included an allocation of \$4,400 for the WDEC.

Public Comment: No one from the public was present

For the Good of the Order: Nothing to report.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ed to adjourn and it was seconded by Marilyn. Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:46 P.M.

Dates to Remember

April 17
April 19

Earth Day Activities
EC virtual meeting, 7:00 p.m.


Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary