



Environmental Commission Virtual Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2021

Present via Zoom Meeting: Ed Komczyk, Marilyn Quinn, Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Eric Agren, (Left the meeting at 8:24 P.M.), Russel Price, Jr. Ahmad Tamous

Alternates: Carl Ford, Ken Miller

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

Public – None

Guests: None

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

Secretary's Report – April Meeting Minutes – Draft meeting minutes were proposed for review by Rich and a motion was made by Ed to accept them for review. The motion was seconded by Russel. There were no changes suggested. A motion was made by Marilyn to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Miriam. The draft minutes were approved with no objections.

Secretary's Report - Correspondence received – Rich mentioned the planning board correspondence he received which he emailed to the group for their information. He also mentioned the township engineer's letter and the township planner's letter commenting on the proposed commercial garage located at River Lane and Crown Point Road. These letters were also emailed to the group.

Old Business

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

RiverWinds Illegal Wildlife Feeding – Nothing new to report, however Miriam expressed concern about a large amount of rolls being dumped and Adam said he would check with the restaurant.

Grass Mowing and Wildflowers – Adam reported that Bill Gigliotti met with the county gardener and she suggested planting in the fall rather than the spring. The wildflower planting will be delayed until the fall.

Possible Butterfly Garden at Rivergate Park – Nothing new to report.

Contact T&M to Assist with Tree Identification – Bill Gigliotti received the tree identification plates from Ken and is working on support posts for the signs. Adam said the township will work with the T&M tree identification person to ensure the signs are properly placed. Adam said the goal would be to try to get the signage in place by the end of June. Miriam asked Adam to let the commission know if they need help or supplemental funding in order to progress the sign placement

Other – Transco Proposed Compressor Station project – Adam said he is still working with the township solicitor to determine if the township will have any opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Other – Carl asked if the township was still collecting polyethylene plastic bags for recycling. Action Item - Adam said he would check into it and report back. Russell said that a local food bank can use them if anyone wanted to donate them.

Other – Update on Salem oak seedling – Adam said the Salem oak seedling was located in the township building lobby and was getting good care. Ed said WDEC would help out as necessary to keep the tree healthy.

Student Representative Report: - Jake reported that high school attendance is mostly in-person and estimated about 70-80% attendance. He also mentioned that it looked like they placed topsoil in previously excavated areas in the Birchly Court remediation site.

Ken – Tree sign follow-up – As requested, Ken provided the tree signage to Bill Gigliotti.

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

Thank you Note to RiverWinds – Miriam sent a thank you note to RiverWinds staff for their help with Earth Day activities.

Meet in person in June - After discussion, it was decided we would meet in-person in June at RiverWinds. Action Item - Miriam will contact Tyler to let him know so he can let the Solvay representative know about the meeting and offer them an opportunity to attend the meeting.

Solvay Donation of \$1500 in Recognition of Earth Day - Miriam said Solvay made a \$1,500 donation to the environmental commission in recognition of Earth Day 2021. Action Item – Miriam asked Rich to send a thank you letter to Solvay.

Talk with Township about Additional Wildflower Space – After discussion it was decided that perhaps it would be better to expand the proposed Strawberry Vale planting rather than doing two separate plantings. Adam said he would check with Bill Gigliotti on the initial size of the planting and report back so we can plan accordingly for the fall planting. Miriam offered possible funding from WDEC if needed to expand the planting area. Ken suggested wildflower maintenance funding and Rich suggested potential annual funding as part of WDEC's annual Earth Day activities.

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report

LNG Project Update – Nothing new to report

Solvay NJDEP Natural Resource Damages Lawsuit – Nothing new to report, Marilyn continues to be in contact with NJDEP and attended a Delaware RiverKeepers webinar.

Grant Applications: Nothing new to report

Potential New Projects - Miriam asked the group to think about potential new projects we can discuss at the June meeting.

Planning Board - Eric talked about the following projects

Amazon Parking Lot Project – WDEC's comments were reviewed and the outcome of the planning board review is that the proposed underground storm water basin will be reviewed by NJDEP. West Deptford's planning board approval is contingent upon NJDEP's approval and any newly imposed conditions.

Proposed Commercial Garage at River Lane Crown Point Road - .Rich said he reviewed the plans and some information was missing from Appendix F and Appendix G of the storm water compliance report. Eric will follow-up with applicant. Eric said the project would not be reviewed at the May planning board meeting, but perhaps in June's meeting.

Proposed Warehouse project located at Curtis Road and Leonard Lane – Eric sent an email to the group including the applicant's attorney and a conceptual plot plan. The plot plan showed two warehouse buildings, one of 75,000 square feet, and one of 50,000 square feet. Eric said the project was in conceptual review phase by the planning board. Ahmad raised a preliminary concern regarding the capacity and capability of the local roads to handle truck traffic. Rich recused himself from a review of the plans. Action Item – Ken to review plans and provide comments to WDEC for consideration and submittal to planning board.

Financial Report: Eric emailed the budget reports to WDEC and said the trust fund balance as of May 17th was \$15,906.74. The new township budget was adopted and \$4,400 dollars was allocated to the WDEC. The balance in the general WDEC account is \$4,351.70.

Public Comment: None

For the Good of the Order: Marilyn noted that continued communication is key to an effective commission.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Russel to adjourn and it was seconded by Ed. Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

June 21

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



Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary