



Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2021

Present: Rich Rodack, Miriam Reichenbach, Eric Agren, Ed Komczyk, Ahmad Tamous,
Alternates: Carl Ford, Ken Miller

WD Twp Representative: Adam Reid

Student Representative: Jake Cobb

Public – Mr. Mo Perera, Ms. Sharon Ceravolo

Guests: None

Call to Order: Miriam Reichenbach called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Secretary's Report – August Meeting Minutes – Miriam made a motion to review the draft August meeting minutes and Ken seconded it. The motion passed with no objection. After review of the draft minutes, two changes were noted. Ken made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Ed seconded it. The motion passed with no objection.

Secretary's Report - Correspondence received – Rich reported there was no new correspondence in the WDEC mailbox according to the email he received from Jill McGill.

Old Business

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

Strawberry Vale Wildflower planting – Nothing new to report, Adam provided a conceptual plan for the planting area to Bill, estimated approximately 3 acres of wildflowers. **Action Item – Adam to work with Bill Gigliotti to get the area tilled and seeds in place by end of October, if possible.**

Possible Butterfly Garden at Rivergate Park – Adam reported that the township has tentatively accepted a conceptual plan for the butterfly garden. The plan includes trails and a pollinator garden.

Progression of other projects, disc golf, park upgrades etc. – The township engineer has provided a quote for the disc golf project. The township is currently reviewing it and will likely progress it. **Action Item – Adam to review the quote to determine costs for tee boxes so that the WDEC can consider financial sponsorship of one or more tee boxes.**

Park upgrades – Adam reported the park upgrades are progressing and will be completed in the next month or two.

Student Representative Report: - Jake reported that the high school is back to in person attendance with students wearing masks. He also mentioned that certain school organizations are looking to volunteer for community service projects. Miriam suggested that Jake contact the organizations to determine if any would consider doing a Riverwinds Drive cleanup day project.

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

Chairperson's Report: WD Family Fun Day – September 18th, Saturday 1-4 PM

Miriam reported that West Deptford Fun Day was very well attended and she appreciated the support of West Deptford employees in helping setup the WDEC booth. She wrote thank you emails to the employees. WDEC Fun Day activities included the following:

- Guess the weight of the pumpkin – The pumpkin weighed 51 pounds and was won by Mr. Jack Walton
- Animal pelts from Zanders – People were interested in touching and identifying the seven different pelts.
- Insectarium – People were keenly interested in the tarantulas, hissing cockroaches and other insects on display.
- Rich's Rocks – people were interested in the polished gemstones and other minerals and fossils on display.

Tree Sign Installation update – Ed reported that Karl Andersen, Miriam, Bill and himself walked the nature trail to review sign placement and identification. Two signs need to be corrected and will be completed by Bill Gigliotti. In addition, Ed reported that Karl would like to meet with the commission to discuss potential additional signage for wildlife and certain other trees on the nature trail. In addition, Eric brought in two reference manuals that he said are available for WDEC's use.

New Business:

Communication with Residents: Nothing new to report.

LNG Project Update – Rich had nothing new to report. Rich noted that natural gas prices are currently on the rise, particularly in Europe, because of low seasonal inventories. The United States has been sending LNG shipments overseas to meet demand.

Grant Applications: Nothing new to report

Planning Board - Eric reported that the planning board's next meeting is scheduled for September 28th but has not seen an agenda yet. He will notify the commission of any items on the agenda. He mentioned one potential project, Coim's proposed construction of a storage shed.

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.

Public Comment: Mr. Perera had no specific questions. Ms. Ceravolo is an avid birdwatcher and suggested perhaps extending the trails at the nature trail. She said she would be at October's meeting to discuss possible alternatives for WDEC's and the township's consideration.

For the Good of the Order: Rich talked about the importance of being aware of ticks and the potential for contracting Lyme's disease. Carl talked about a show on Netflix entitled *Fabulous Fungi*. Miriam talked about Rowan professor, Dan Duran's upcoming program on snakes at the library on Thursday, September 23rd at 1 PM.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ken to adjourn and it was seconded by Rich. Miriam adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M. with no objections.

Dates to Remember

October 18th EC in-person meeting, 7:00 P.M.



Signed and submitted by Richard Rodack, WDEC Secretary