

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting October 2nd, 2024 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson Alex Perri, Co-Chairperson

Members Present - Dick Colby, Dan Crum, Emma Witt

Members Absent - Lisa March, Belinda Chester

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -present

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W. - present

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. – present

Guests: Jerry Barberio, ISA Certified Arborist

Old Business: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM and a flag salute was conducted.

Presentations:

Jerry Barberio made a presentation on the NJDEP model tree replacement ordinance. He discussed the various requirements of the ordinance and what objectives were left up to local municipalities or other governmental agencies to decide upon and enforce.

Mr. Barberio discussed the guidelines for tree removal and replacement and talked in detail about the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). He gave examples of several replanting scenarios and discussed ways to make the ordinance work for a particular municipality. Municipalities will have until next year to complete the required ordinance. The presentation concluded with discussion on available grant funds and how to acquire them to aid in the completion of the required ordinance.

General Discussion topics:

Steve Fiedler updated the group on discussions regarding the Mullica River being designated “Wild and Scenic”. He talked about what the designation would actually provide and mentioned the next step is a reconnaissance study done by academics.

Alex Perri is now a certified arborist and works for the Davey Resource Group.

Commissioner Parker mentioned an upcoming virtual meeting entitled “Understanding Energy Markets Virtual Discussion with the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.” The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th, at 3PM. Advanced registration is required via Eventbrite at <https://NJCEnergyMarkets.eventbrite.com>.

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Also noteworthy was the EPA has issued final OCS air permits to Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind for their first of two proposed offshore wind farms, the MK Betterment Committee is working on the wall to commemorate Colonel John McKee and the founding of the MK Betterment Association, and there have been resident complaints about commercial vehicles parking on the grass alongside the bike path.

Commissioner Parker mentioned Hamilton Township is moving forward with the reconstruction of the trestle bridge over the Great Egg Harbor River and updated the group on the Amistad Commission's development of black history curriculum in local k-12 classrooms. Finally, he made note of the Atlantic County Safe Place Initiatives meeting on Wednesday, November 6th at Stockton University's Kesselman Hall on their AC campus in room B119/120.

Dan Crum mentioned a recent mosquito sample taken from Estell Manor Park tested positive for West Nile Virus. It was a strain of mosquito that primarily feeds on avians.

The evening concluded with Steve Fiedler mentioning the dedication of Phase I of the Glen by the Bay restoration project taking place on October 9th and the Country Living Fair taking place at the Batsto Village on October 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for November 6th , 2024 at 7PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Maureen Kern, Chairperson - Board of County Commissioners
Andrew Parker, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members