

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting February 5th, 2025, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson

Members Present - Dick Colby, Emma Witt, Lisa March, Dan Crum, Velecia Bush

Members Absent - Alex Perri, Co-Chairperson, Belinda Chester, Joe Ambrose

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -absent

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W., George McDonnell, C.P.M.- present

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

Guests: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM and a flag salute was conducted.

New Business:

None

Guest Speaker: Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson

Stephen Fiedler gave a video presentation on the Glenn by the Bay site and the partnerships that helped create the park. Glenn by the Bay is in Memorial Park Galloway Township and was created by the Go Green Galloway Committee in partnership with Galloway Township. Stephen discussed how they were able to work with various partners to establish Glenn by the Bay and how important all the partnerships were to create their vision.

They partnered with:

- Galloway Township who provided the space along with Open Space/ Green Acres funding as well as assistance in removing the vast amounts of brush.
- The Galloway Environmental Team provided many hours of volunteer service.
- The National Park Service assisted through their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation program.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service Assistance Program
- Sustainable NJ provided funding to help pay for their pavilion, benches and signage.
- US Fish and Wildlife provided funding for over 100 trees and shrubs, as well as tree protectors.
- ACUA provided Eco Soil, as well as trash and recycling cans.
- The Glenn Family Foundation provided resources to be used on the family's homestead. Funding was used to purchase an electric tractor.
- Xerces Society provide garden designs

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Stephen provided a brief history of the property going back to when the Native Americans occupied this part of NJ prior to Europeans arriving. An archeology survey using ground penetrating radar was done on the site, confirming the site was an important area occupied by Native Americans. It was asked that a section of the park, found to be of great archeology significance, be left undisturbed from any future study. Stephen then provided information on how the property was utilized by the European settlers that occupied the land. The area was used in a fashion similar to how Native Americans utilized the site. They farmed, harvested shellfish, and harvested salt hay. He concluded the history of the site with the Glenn Family Homestead, a horse farm, a golf pro's residence, and airfield.

Stephen discussed how the site is now being used as an educational center for the public as well as local schools, educating people on native plants, invasive plants, pollinator gardens, and the history of the site. The park also provides many recreational opportunities for visitors including sport fields and walking paths. There are plans to build both hiking trails, and with the assistance of JORBA, mountain biking trails.

Round Table Discussion:

Dick Colby encouraged members of the group to become volunteer judges at the upcoming Science Fair at Stockton University on March 15th. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am judging is from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. He was also asked to attend the Hammonton Historical Society's next meeting to present on the Dr. Smith sanitarium

Dan Crum reported on the Health Department is dealing with several retirements in the department.

Stephen Fielder reminded the group of the Lines in the Pines and the Annual Pinelands Short Course; both being held at Stockton University on March 19th and March 10th respectively. Stephen also reported on the grass root effort to stop micro plastics from entering our waterways resulting from the use of plastic lumber in building decks in our shore towns. Many local municipalities have passed legislation to require contractors to use proper collection and disposal methods for micro plastics and many more municipalities are in the process of creating similar legislation.

Group discussion was had on next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th, at 7PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

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