

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting May 7th , 2025, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson,

Members Present - Dick Colby, Emma Witt, Joe Ambrose, Dan Crum

Members Absent - Alex Perri, Co-Chairperson, Belinda Chester, Velevia Bush, Lisa March

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -present

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

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

Guests: Monica Cahill, Assistant Manager, Driver, and Guide, Pineland Adventures, Bill Reinert, Bob Davisson

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM and a flag salute was conducted.

Old Business:

None

Guest Speaker: Monica Cahill, Assistant Manager, Driver, and Guide, Pineland Adventures

Monica provided the group with a brief overview of Pineland Adventures, started in 2015, and what they offer in the way of exploration, education, and recreation through their guided and unguided canoe and kayak trips. Her slide presentation provided detailed information of the upper Mullica River along with several tributaries including the Batsto, Wading, and Oswego rivers.

Monica highlighted much of the detailed habitat participants are likely to encounter on a trip down river. She explained how the experience can change depending on the water levels of the various rivers and how participants can choose different length trips according to their experience level or amount of time they have to spend.

Ms. Cahill also explained the organization was started to acquaint clients with the Pinelands region while providing fun and educational experiences. She touched briefly on the difference between kayaks and canoes and provided a history of the Pinelands Preservation Area, the creation of the Pinelands National Reserve, and the 1979 Pinelands Preservation Act.

Her presentation touched on many of the plants one would likely encounter on a trip and concluded by citing the Mullica River/Great Bay Estuary as one of the cleanest/purest in the area from New York to Washington D.C.

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Round Table Discussion:

Discussion was had about where to take our June field trip. Two possibilities were Stockton University's farm or the Glen by the Bay property in Galloway.

Dick Colby noted the accumulation of litter at the Liebig Avenue entrance to the County's Galloway West property adjacent to Stockton University. Eric Husta noted the litter would be picked up.

Greg Brookins brought a few copies of the 2025 County Manual and asked that it be sent digitally with this month's minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be a field trip with location and time yet to be determined.

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