

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting April 2nd, 2025, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

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

Members Present -, Belinda Chester, Joe Ambrose, Velevia Bush, Lisa March

Members Absent - Dick Colby, Emma Witt, Dan Crum

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -present

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

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

Guests: Bob Williams, Founder, Pine Creek Forestry LLC, several members of the public

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

Old Business:

None

Guest Speaker: Bob Williams, Founder, Pine Creek Forestry LLC,

Bob provided an interesting presentation to the group on the benefits of forest management through various techniques. The central focus was on the Atlantic white cedar and how the species has evolved over time along the eastern seaboard. Cyclic fire along with constantly changing harvesting operations allowed cedar stands to regenerate and exist in various stages of renewal.

He focused on several examples of the relationship man has had with cedar in this area and how those activities shaped the stands we see today. These stands are now in danger of disappearing due to the removal of the various disturbances and the intrusion of salt water. Mr. Williams also talked extensively about the roles politics and public perception have played in shaping the cedar stands that exist today.

Much of his slide show highlighted examples of cedar decline and the subsequent loss of habitat once dead trees fall and allow sunlight to reach the forest floor. Where seed trees once helped pave the way for new stands to take hold and mature, red maple is now the dominant species of hardwood taking over these disturbed areas.

Bob's central push is to reintroduce responsible forestry management that will allow the local people to begin using the forest in ways that would perpetuate its future existence. By reestablishing the cultural connections to the land, the hope is to rejuvenate much of the habitat that has been lost over previous decades to a variety of environmental and political factors.

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Round Table Discussion:

None due to the length of the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th , 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