

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board  
Meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2025, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

**Officers Present** - Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson,

**Members Present** - Dick Colby, Emma Witt, Joe Ambrose, Dan Crum, Belinda Chester, Lisa March

**Members Absent** - Alex Perri, Co-Chairperson, Velevia Bush

**Commissioner Representative** - Andrew Parker -absent

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

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

**Guests:** Various members of the public including Barbara Fiedler, Deb Sommers, Lee Campbell, and Steve Jasiiecki

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM and a flag salute was conducted.

**Old Business:**

None

**Guest Speaker:** Martin Fiedler, local film producer and editor

Martin debuted a new documentary explaining the history and current use of [Mr. B's Backyard Classroom](#) which currently serves the Roland Rogers Elementary School, the Reeds Road Elementary School, and the Galloway Township Middle School. The outdoor learning area consists of two retention basins separated by a small upland area serving as an outdoor learning center. The film highlighted interviews with numerous individuals who in some way, have played an important role in establishing and continuing the legacy of Mr. B's Backyard Classroom. Detailed explanations were given regarding the process of obtaining grant funding to build the facility as well as how educators are utilizing the space.

The presentation concluded with Ms. Sommers, a Stockton University Education Specialist, explaining how the group received guidance from Eric Schradig of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and how various students have completed projects utilizing the resources available. Deb works continually with NatureFest and will be spreading this method of outdoor education through speaking engagements and distribution of the video.

**Round Table Discussion:**

Guest, Deb Sommers, also a representative of the Stockton Maple Project, talked about making red maple syrup and helping to introduce those products to the public at various speaking, tabling, and

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tasting events. She also noted the date for next year's Naturefest on May 28<sup>th</sup> with a raindate of the 29<sup>th</sup>, to be held at Mr. B's Backyard Classroom.

Guest, Steve Jasiocki, provided the group with an update on microplastics in local waterways. Steve has been working diligently with local towns and municipalities to encourage legislation that would ultimately lead to containment and collection of plastic sawdust from new construction efforts. Thus far he believes 19 entities have passed resolutions of support or adopted governing regulations. Steve noted many contractors have begun voluntarily using hoods to capture the dust, keeping it from entering local waterways through storm drains.

Steve Fiedler noted Doug Tallamy's return to the area at Cedar Creek High School at 7PM on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Lisa March updated the group on her daughter's hit and run accident in Philadelphia.

Joe Ambrose mentioned he has been touring all the county parks this summer and has been enjoying what he has been seeing.

Dan Crum mentioned traveling to Yellowstone National Park and noted the first case of West Nile Virus in a human this year has been documented.

Belinda Chester is planning for next year. The Master Gardener program is taking break but there is an upcoming composting class.

Guest, Barbara Fiedler, noted the final Galloway Green Market was Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 12 pm until 4 pm. She also noted an upcoming NJ Native Plant Society garden tour occurring on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm – 4pm. Other dates can be found through the Native Plant Society at NPSNJ.ORG. Ms. Fiedler concluded by noting volunteers are always needed at the Glenn by the Bay property. Volunteers can be contact Steve Fiedler at scfiedler@gmail.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

**Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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