

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting March 4th , 2026, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

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

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

Members Absent - Velevia Bush

Commissioner Representative – Richard Dase -absent

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Guest Speakers: None

New Business

Reorganization took place once the meeting commenced. Stephen Fiedler was nominated to remain as Co-Chairperson and Emma Witt was nominated to replace Alex Perri as Co-Chairperson. The motion was made and approved unanimously.

Round Table Discussion:

Discussion began with the group considering future speakers. Mention was made of contacting ROSA, the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance, and asking one of their members to speak to the group. This led to further discussion regarding offshore wind, whale safety, and the cost of electricity and the delivery charges to provide it.

Dan Crum mentioned the cases of bird flu being found in approximately 1,100 Canada Geese and songbirds in NJ. The group discussed concerns over bird flu mutating and crossing over to mammals. Discussion was also had on PFAS and chemicals in the environment.

Alex Perri inquired about the possibility of a science based high school similar to ACIT. Discussion was had on local magnet programs of Greater Egg Harbor School District high schools. This, in turn, led to talk of wetland loss and current dredging practices and tactics.

Steve Fiedler provided an update on the status of his attempt to gain Wild and Scenic status for the Mullica river. He talked about the desire to work with the Board of Commissioners to garner support and ended with discussion on the Invasive Plant Council. He also mentioned some of the invasive plant removal work Reeds Farm is currently conducting.

Belinda Chester talked at length about the challenges of food waste and suggested we look to bring in a

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guest speaker who can discuss microbial waste processing and other alternative approaches to combating waste generation.

Dick Colby talked about the continuation of the NJ North South Long Trail and suggested the County fix the bridge over Mare's Run. He also suggested the County purchase the Amatol track from the current, singular owner of the property, and consider developing the parcel as a new County Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st , at 7PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

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