

Vineland Environmental Commission
Regular meeting minutes, April 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Diane Amico and the public notice was read.

Present were: Chairperson Lisa Fleming, John Casadia-Planning Board Liaison, Sue Fenili, Christine Brown, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen, Brad Giordano, and Diane Amico-City Liaison

A motion was made by Charles Valentine to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 meeting. Seconded by John Pedersen. All were in favor.

There was no Chairperson's report. The budget is still the same with all line items at zero until the permanent budget is adopted by City Council.

Site Plan reviews – Lisa Fleming said there were no new applications of concern. The Charter School plans were made available if anyone would like to view them. A question was asked about the LIDL supermarket plan previously discussed. John Casadia said he has not seen it come before the Planning Board yet. John Pedersen said the development project at East and Landis Ave. will have construction that may come close to 3 street trees (Elms?). John will look to see how close the building will be to the trees.

Education – Newspaper Articles – David Lowenstern: it was discussed that another article to address over-mulching would be useful.

Maurice River Conservation Area Footbridge: John Pedersen said the bridge is done; it has a little bit of a bounce. Pictures of new bridge were passed around. In addition to the other materials, Reuben's Hardware donated the screws. There is a concern about motorcycles and ATVs using the bridge. Signage is needed that says "use at your own risk" and "no motorized vehicles". There was discussion of various designs to keep ATVs off the bridge. The Eagle Scout will thank the donors and the City Council will thank the Scout for his contribution. John Pedersen said there are about 40-50 tires dumped back there. He also still has the "no hunting" signs that need to be erected.

Giampietro Park Raingarden: The first Saturday was rained-out and the rain-date was snowed-out. On Sunday, 4 people moved topsoil to prepare for planting on 4/16 at 9:00 a.m. Plants have been donated by various sources, but more are needed. Brad Giordano picked up 2 large loads of topsoil from Coia's and delivered it to the park. There was discussion of various border options.

Willow Oak: John Casadia spoke to Bob Garcia regarding the mowing, but it has not been mowed, and the gravel and fence still are not repaired. Brad will install "No ATV" signs. Diane will follow up with process for scheduling a prescribed burn for next March.

Wildflower/milkweed areas: David still has more seed available and asked for suggestions of where to spread them. The Maple Ave. area is producing a lot of pods. One possibility is the Burnt Mill pond area near the dam.

Arbor Day: Sue Fenili said 12 schools so far have requested trees. Trees will be delivered 4/27th in the morning. Friday the 29th is Arbor Day. The total available for trees to be purchased from Ferrucci's is \$576. The trees will be Purple leaf plums. Sue communicated directly with the Daily Journal for this year's event. If money is leftover, trees will be purchased for the VDID. All members were in favor. Sue visited Sabater School at their request to resolve a problem with dead trees on their property, and discovered Weeping willows had been planted in an area too small, surrounded by cement.

Old Business: David has not received a response from the landowner on Elmer Road next to S. Vineland Park. He will send a letter on behalf of the Commission asking if the owner would like to donate the land, and, if not, then he will look for a non-profit that might want to obtain it for preservation. The City is not purchasing property at this time.

New Business: Lisa noticed that 40 acres on Chestnut Avenue were donated by VHS to South Jersey Land and Water Trust.

Diane passed out membership cards for the NJ Shade Tree Federation.

Brad said there are a lot of youth attending workshops at Lowe's and Home Depot and there may be opportunities for the EC to work with youth.

Tree Committee (Sue Fenili, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen)

John Pedersen has spread 4 loads of mulch so far, on Wood St., Elmer St., Park Ave at West Ave., Landis Ave, and Normandie Lane.

A discussion followed regarding the Utility's pruning practices and ugly trees. Pictures were passed around. Wires in the way of trees is a problem.

Diane said that there was a renewed discussion among the City's Sustainable Jersey Green Team regarding the creation of a Shade Tree Commission.

CFMP goals: Our goal is a net-zero loss, and it was discussed that we should work on a plan to achieve this.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sue Fenili, seconded by Charlie Valentine, and all were in favor.