

Vineland Environmental Commission
Regular meeting minutes
July 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into the record. Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, and 2 guests: Emma Melvin and Sarah Johnson from the American Littoral Society.

Rainbarrel workshop: The American Littoral Society has offered to conduct a free rainbarrel workshop. Emma Melvin said they will provide the barrels and materials, and will do the education. A minimum of 25 attendees is preferred; up to 65 can be accommodated. The workshop can be done inside or outside, with or without electricity. It is better to have a screen. Summer is preferable, and hopefully it can be arranged within the next few weeks. The attendance should be tracked because they are bringing a certain number of barrels. Sue Fenili will announce the workshop this week at the Citizens United meeting. All were in favor of the event, but there was concern about the short timeframe for advertising the event. It can be held on a weeknight and only takes about an hour. American Littoral Society has interns now, but will not after the second week in August. Also, later in the summer, people likely will not hook up and use the barrels this year. Locations for the event were discussed. American Littoral will also be advertising. The location is needed before we can advertise. Sarah uses Eventbrite for registrations. It would be good for EC members to be there. The sign in sheet will include a liability statement. ANJEC is also partnering on this event. It was decided to schedule for August 2 at 6:30 p.m. Location is to be determined after American Littoral checks with Ellison School and Diane checks on various city facilities.

Minutes: No quorum last month, so no June minutes. A motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2018 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by John Casadia. Approval passed with Charles Valentine, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, and Diane Amico voting yes. David Lowenstern abstained, as he was not at that meeting.

Emma from American Littoral invited members to participate in water sampling and macroinvertebrate sampling in Menantico Creek. The sampling will be done two times per year in September and March as part of a larger project in the watershed. The first year is to get baseline information. Emma will notify us when it gets closer. The samples, from two locations in the Menantico, are to be sent out for testing. The attempted eradication of the invasive Parrotfeather plant from this stream a few years ago was discussed. US Fish and Wildlife Service sprayed, but the plant had been spotted again.

The **budget** is the same as last month, except for the amount spent for tree bark guards. Diane did order the tree bark protectors, but it took awhile to find the requested type, which had to be special-ordered from a new vendor.

ANJEC /Rutgers Grant: This is still being worked on. Diane is trying to keep the city and the engineer in contact to keep it on track.

Mulch: A motion to order mulch from SJ Landcape not to exceed \$200 was made by Sue Fenili and seconded by Charlie Valentine. All were in favor.

Library display: It was clarified that the display board, when it is used as a stand alone display, is not going to be printed, but will be 3-D as originally discussed. However, the library display is a whole room and there should be some continuity between walls. We have plenty of room, and the display will continue through the whole month of January. On the 3-panel display board, sue can still do the

recycling display. It was discussed that the library display should not just be flat panels, to be interesting. Diane is having difficulty flattening out the panel display that was damaged.

Willow Oak: The Boy Scout who is planning to do a project at Willow Oak met up with Diane and John Pedersen last month at the beginning of the Commission's planned meeting time. He brought sample wood arrows for sign repairs, and his paperwork is signed. Diane is waiting to hear from him regarding materials needed. John Casadia is to be involved once the project starts. David Lowenstern said the South Jersey Quail Project is looking for suitable habitat and inquired about Willow Oak.

Giampietro: Sue's son-in-law will do a generic "environmental commission garden" sign.

Milkweed Areas: John Pedersen had marked off an area along the Boulevard, but it was mowed by the County. Currently, John and Ellen, and Christine are planning to meet with Mark Guglielmi to come up with a plan and list of areas to not be mowed. The list will be presented to, and hopefully adopted by, City Council, because this approval is what John Knoop from Cumberland County wants to see. Signage can be erected after the areas are approved. David and Sue both said they have not seen many monarch eggs this year.

Proposal donation of land: Diane got a letter from a resident who wants to donate 13 acres of land on Weymouth Road to the Environmental Commission. The letter was forwarded to Business Administration, which in turn forwarded it to the Legal Department. We are waiting for an answer as to the process. The map of the property was reviewed. David suggested the deed should include a declaration that there are no environmental issues, and if it is found that there are, and the previous owner knew, then the land returns to the original owner. A motion to accept the donation of land was made by John Casadia and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor. Diane can do a Resolution.

Site Plans: There was a quick review of site plans. Garden State Bulb made an application for 8 acres on Garden Road near Rt. 55. Diane presented the plans for anyone to look at.

Volunteer work days: Diane said John Pedersen has been working with the Mormon volunteers again, as well as with John Lauria.

Disc Golf Club tree removals: The disc golf club removed 5 trees at South Vineland Park, as had been approved, but has not yet replaced them. It had only been discussed generally that we want native trees planted. David will contact them. The new trees should be a minimum of 5' and some initial watering is needed for the first few weeks. The trees should be planted by October at the latest. After contact is made, Diane will contact Dale Elbeuf about locations.

Pending projects: Diane still has materials for projects, such as paint for benches at Giampietro and 4" x 4" sign posts. We have the materials but not a lot of manpower, as for most work days it has just been the same 2 people.

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.