

Vineland Environmental Commission
Minutes – Regular Meeting
March 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record.

Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, Brad Giordano, and guest Christine Brown.

Cheryl Hulihan stopped in prior to the meeting to bring the draft of the flyer for Kids to Parks Day to be held on May 20th.

A motion to approve the **minutes** for the February 12, 2018 meeting was made by Charlie Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.

The **2018 budget** line items are not yet populated with amounts. Since the last meeting, Diane purchased the mulch, signs, and nails that were previously approved.

ANJEC/Rutgers Grant: The presentation at the City Council meeting went well. The presentation included education on stormwater and details of the grant. A follow up meeting is to be held with the Business Administrator. Diane reviewed the sequence of events that led to the grant being available to Vineland. Several potential projects were discussed, including pavement around City Hall, any new parking areas around City Hall, and near City parking lots.

Volunteer Work Days: John Pedersen, Anthony Coffee, and David worked on removing brush from the milkweed area at Romano Park. John now has the “No Hunting” signs. If anyone can assist with them, please let John know.

For the **Tree Seedling Giveaway**, the original event date was 4/20, but since the pickup date is April 6th the seedlings will not last that long. A new date of Monday, April 9th was chosen. Diane passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Founders Day and **Kid’s to Parks Day** are one day apart. We are committed to Kids to Parks Day. We do not have our display board and other items ready for Founder’s Day. It was decided to skip Founder’s Day this year.

Library: The 36” x 72” display board and table contents were discussed. John Pedersen suggested each person come up with something for the board based on their individual projects or interests. If anyone has anything to be laminated, we have 11” x 17” laminating sheets.

Willow Oak: A day is needed to do trail clearing and to fix fences and benches. Items needed were discussed, and the day was tentatively chosen to be April 22 from 1:00 to 5:00. Public outreach for volunteers will not be done until the week is closer and we can see the weather forecast. John P. may be able to reach out to some Boy Scouts or other volunteers. If anyone has tools, please bring them.

Signage: Sue’s son-in-law is available to create signage. The Commission would need to provide the layout and wording. For the Giampietro Park area, the terminology is undetermined, as it does not exactly meet the definition of either a raingarden or bio-swale. John P. will work on a design for the Willow Oak sign.

Wildflower/Milkweed areas: John P. has not received a response from Mark Guglielmi regarding the mowed wildflower areas and roadside maintenance plan. John and Ellen, along with Christine, had previously developed a Wildflower Area Maintenance Plan and had forwarded it to Public Works. Possibly roping it off might be another option.

Bennett's Mill and Maurice River Conservation Area: Diane made a sign for posting on, or near, any deer stands. Hopefully, the owner of the previously identified deer stand takes it down.

Diane is working on getting the Commission on the Cumberland County Probation office's list for community service workers.

Site Plan Reviews: there was nothing received of environmental concern. At the end of Lincoln Avenue, there is an industrial park planned. The area was previously cleared and the former use has already affected the site detrimentally, so there are not a lot of trees being removed.

Bluebird Houses: John Casadia is meeting tomorrow with Cumberland County VoTech to decide on locations for bluebird houses. There will be a follow-up and maintenance plan with students as part of the project.

Arbor Day: Sue said all letters to schools have gone out; she has received 4 responses. John P. has requested 6 trees for Landis Ave and the Soldier's Home. Sue also has obtained quotes and availability from 3 nurseries. Species and prices were discussed. There have been quality issues with the last trees from Ferrucci's. At one time, balled/burlapped trees were recommended, but recently there has been a shift away from this, as the roots are getting girdled. It was decided to purchase maples at \$35 each from Hopewell Nursery.

Landscapers: Sue noticed that Sacred Heart Cemetery is mulching correctly around trees. She approached their office, and they asked if she would be willing to discuss this as a story for the Star Herald Catholic News. Sue mailed a letter to about 18 local landscapers regarding the proper way to mulch, and included the Mulch Volcano brochures from NJDEP. Sue has contacted Deb Marko of the Daily Journal but has not heard back.

Bamboo: Diane passed around a picture from the video on how dried bamboo stakes can take root.

Tree Guidance: David and John P. have created a rough draft for Guidance on tree preservation during construction. They are still working on it.

Mike McGrath from NPR is giving a presentation in Port Norris on April 26. David gave out information on this.

David would like to organize a tree-identification walk that would take place in conjunction with a birding walk, possibly with Citizens United.

Diane passed around a city request for input on a property available near, but not adjacent to, South Vineland Park. John P. suggested the City obtain it for future connection to the park.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Casadia and seconded by Charlie Valentine. All were in favor.