

Vineland Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The Secretary read the public notice into the record.

Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, John Pedersen, Brad Giordano, Anthony Coffee.

Bluebird Houses: John Casadia has made 14 bluebird houses for placement at the Cumberland County Tech Center. He passed around pictures and explained the construction of the houses. They were installed on poles with predator guards. There are a few extra for additional locations. An appropriate location would contain a meadow where they can be placed approximately 25 feet from any trees.

Maurice River Conservation Area: John Pedersen visited the Maurice River Conservation area and noted that Atlantic City Electric cleared cedar trees from the area of their wires, and left the trees along the side of the woods. The cut trees may be useful for constructing something on the paths that cross over wet areas, or may be useful at Willow Oak. A map was reviewed to discuss the location and access of the cut trees. John also noted a lot of trash in the area that is consistent with the type found in a secluded area. Access to the location was discussed. Occasionally deer stands are found in the area. There are some "no hunting" signs around.

ANJEC Grant: Diane gave a recap of last month's presentation from ANJEC and Rutgers. One of the proposed locations is the Vineland Public Library, which is already being planned for upgrades. As a result of the presentation, the City may now consider the idea of porous pavement in some areas.

Bennetts Mill: There are a couple of properties in the area that are for sale. John Pedersen sent the information to Jane Galletto. He noted that on the State's map, our **MRCA** nature area is showing as being part of Peaslee.

Environmental Resource Inventory and Open Space Map: Diane explained that the official definition of Open Space involves a list filed by the City with the State, which is not easily changed. What we see as undeveloped, or privately owned, while open, is not part of the official list. As a result, the consultant working on the map was confused as to the purpose of the map, and indicated that he would not be able to title the map "Open Space". Diane and John compiled a list of properties that we would like to see on the map, and the consultant will make what we want. It may not be perfect initially, but once we see it, we can tweak it later and make the next map better. Diane may be able to work with the City's IS Division, or work on the GIS software, to do the next update ourselves. We also wanted to see some greenways outside of the Vineland border, and the consultant was not inclined to include anything outside of Vineland.

Stormwater mitigation: There was discussion of various actions the City could take to mitigate stormwater, including raingardens for all new construction, and replacing the stormdrains with the type that block trash from entering the waterways.

Volunteers: The Mormon group is still working regularly, with different people coming at different times. The last few times have been on Saturday afternoons. They cleaned trash along S. Lincoln Avenue near the Electric Utility. Diane said she had seen the trash bags along the road. Diane asked if someone

needing community service could work with John or this group. The group has also mulched trees and continues to do so, although the weather has been a little bit uncooperative. Some work needing to be done includes a place between Orchard and Mill roads that would benefit from having a trail cleared. It is either city or county property, near Safeway Freezers. There is no sidewalk, but is frequently used and, near the Little Robin Creek, John leveled the path but the sumac keeps growing back. There is also an area near West Side Park that needs clearing. There is trash at the Maurice River Conservation Area that needs trash cleaned up. Bennetts Mill also has some trash. There are "No hunting" signs to be put up. John would like to see the City survey crew mark one property line at Bennetts Mill. Diane also suggested that we could use some help with data entry of tree information for Community Forestry.

Tree Maintenance: Diane said the plan to work with Public Works for maintenance on trees did not work out, due to a lack of manpower. Initially, Mark Guglielmi had said they could spare 2 people, but a few days later, Mark was off work for a week and the acting supervisor could not spare anyone. Then it snowed and it became too late in the season. We will now plan to hire a contractor in summer or fall, as we cannot prune in spring when the trees are budding. John said he is disappointed by the inaction on the part of the City, for both taking care of trees, as well as with lack of consideration for trees and green infrastructure during engineering projects.

Kids to Parks Day: Bad weather and ice roads tonight likely kept our guest from coming, but Diane said Sarah Hullihen intends to hold Kids to Parks Day again this year.

Meeting adjourned.