

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were: Diane Amico, Charles Valentine, Sue Fenili, John Pedersen, and guests Jeff Boardley and Ellen Pedersen. John Casadia entered later.

A motion to approve the **minutes** of the April 12, 2021 meeting was made by John Pedersen and seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor.

Diane said we are still on a temporary **budget**, so there is no printout of the budget yet. When the permanent budget is approved, we should be getting the same amounts as last year.

John Pedersen said last month there was a volunteer event at Giampietro with the Littoral Society. Piles of brush were left to mark off the tree planting area. Also, some of the leftover seedlings from the giveaway were planted there. Other seedlings were planted at Landis Park and Willow Oak. There are many oaks leftover which still need to be planted. Jeff said there are some available planting areas at Campanella Park. Ellen bought 4 dogwoods and 2 catalpas for areas in need of flowering trees. Jeff said the dogwoods can be planted in the Mother's garden at Landis Park. Jeff and John P. will meet there to discuss the planting locations. Diane will do more research on obtaining a "weed wrench", but needs to know which one to purchase. This weekend at Giampietro Park, native plants will be planted by the Rotary Club at the flagpole. Public Works will remove the bushes, and their crew will be there on Saturday. Ellen purchases about 80 plants for the project. Public Works has an auger for planting the plugs. Afterwards, Public Works will erect a sign at the flagpole containing some information about the plants and indicating that it is was a Rotary Club project.

John Casadia entered the meeting.

Hopewell Nursery should have received their copy of our purchase order for the trees we ordered. After it is confirmed they have it, John P. will pick up the trees. The nursery's stock was low and they had originally quoted on mostly Pin Oaks. Due to the prevalence of Bacterial Leaf Scorch, NJ State advises against planting Pin Oaks. Therefore, Diane switched the composition of the order to be for mostly maples and fewer pin-oaks. Alternate nurseries in the area were discussed as future options. It is better to plant these trees soon, before the weather gets too hot. John Pedersen and Jeff Bordley will coordinate through John Casadia for access to the Pilla School property, and John Pedersen will mark the planting locations in advance. John Casadia asked if the trees could be planted more toward the front of the property where they would be visible. Maintenance and lack of watering of the trees are challenges faced at the school properties. Jeff said that Public Works may eventually be assisting the Board of Education with mowing and tree maintenance. This may help with future collaboration for the Arbor Day trees.

At the Wildflower area on the N. Boulevard, the stakes have been removed. The Landis Ave area stakes are still up. There are wildflowers in front of Willow Oak, so it is preferable this area not be mowed.

Jeff Bordley discussed various locations where trees can be planted at Fiocchi, Cunningham, Campanella Park, and the dog park on S. Lincoln Ave. West Side Park will now be only a dog-park, so trees can be planted there as well.

Regarding Willow Oak, Diane received a call from Jane Galetto, who had noticed the unwanted tree growth in the field. She has offered assistance, using Pete Galetto's equipment, in removing them. Jeff said Public Works has a similar piece of equipment. This is a consideration as a fall project. Jeff said he did purchase fencing material using our purchase order, and this has been installed. The remainder of the fence will be installed by Public Works when they receive their

new budget. They will keep the field perimeter road mowed throughout the summer. John P. asked if they could also mow some of the larger side trail.

Diane gave an update on Burnt Mill Pond, where the neighbors are still working with the City's Engineering Department to have the pond dredged.

Jeff said part of the stream north of Giampietro Park is blocked by downed trees, limiting the flow into the pond. The pond is currently experiencing an algae growth problem. Nutrient load that is running off of yards along the stream may also be contributing.

There were very few Planning and Zoning applications this month, and those were mostly property owners notices and wetlands letter-of-determination requests. Main Meats is planned for N. Main Road, and will be an improvement of an already-developed site. John Casadia will look at the plan to see how close they are getting to the wetlands behind it. John C. said the Dollar Store at Wheat & Main was postponed from last month, and the new plan was better than the previous. The South Vineland Fire Hall on Sherman Avenue is putting up an accessory garage behind the building. This area is already clear and is not large enough for the tree ordinance to be applicable.

Diane said that Sustainable Jersey is looking for a specific format of site plan review to be submitted to the Planning Board. The format is based on the ANJEC bulleting for Environmental Commissions Site Plan Review, and is called "Findings of Fact and Recommendations". We should be using this format for future reviews.

Diane thanked everyone who helped at the seedling giveaway. There were 110 cars that attended the event. There was a man and woman who arrived early and offered to help us. They ended up staying for a couple of hours tagging trees. John Pedersen is still putting in some of the leftover seedlings in various areas.

John P. said he would like to check on the trees planted on the Blackwater Branch, and will let Diane know before he goes so she can get the key. We can only keep the key for a day or two at a time. The fence was repaired, so there is no access without a key.

Diane explained the new NJ State storm-water ordinances that require new developments to incorporate Green Infrastructure. The Shop Rite drainage approval to drain into Giampietro Park was discussed. The City has decided not to create a Stormwater Mitigation Plan. The pros and cons of the City creating this kind of plan were discussed. Diane will reach out to the Planning Division for some insight into the decision not to have a Mitigation Plan.

Diane asked about a replacement tree for 4 Evelyn Ave. The trees we are getting from Hopewell will be larger species. The space available is small, so a smaller species, such as one of the dogwoods, may be better. One-Call-U-Dig would need to be called.

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