

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Minutes – Regular meeting  
November 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. Present were Diane Amico, Charles Valentine, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, and guest Ellen Pedersen. The public notice was read into record.

Reappointments for new terms were announced for members Sue Fenili and Ariana Headley.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by John Casadia. All were in favor.

Diane gave the budget report. The requisition deadline for expenditures is at the end of this month. A motion to approve a purchase of hardware, protector guards and other parts for bluebird nesting boxes was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor. John Casadia will obtain the prices and forward to Diane. A motion to spend the balance of budget line item funds on trees from County Line Nursery was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.

A volunteer day will be planned for Saturday 12/3/22 at South Vineland Park, unless the tree purchase is facilitated before that, and approval for planting in a city owned location is approved by Public Works, in which case a tree planting will replace this event. The time will be 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Diane is working with Public Works to arrange for tree planting locations.

John Casadia visited a Cumberland County Tech Board meeting to thank them for letting the students do the project of building bluebird nesting boxes. He noted that they were constructed well with high quality materials.

The Life Skills class at VHS, moderated by Dave Orlandini, is planning two field trips to do volunteer work during the school day. The first will be on January 31, 2023 at Willow Oak for trail clearing and litter cleanup. The second will be on February 7, 2023 at Giampietro Park for maintenance around the riparian buffer and other work as needed. If anyone from the Commission can attend to meet them there, it would be helpful for them to have guidance and oversight for needed tasks.

Diane is waiting for proposals from Environmental Consultants for updating the Environmental Resource Inventory.

There was discussion regarding Code Enforcement of Site Plan issues. The Planning Office sent a letter to Code Enforcement regarding maintenance of site plan requirements for several sites. Diane followed up, but the enforcement was mostly regarding high grass. It was noted that if any issues are referred to Code Enforcement, it would be beneficial to be specific and clear as to what is the issue for the complaint.

The banner was received and brought to the meeting. Everyone was pleased with the results. Anthony Coffee did the design and Dennis Abriola provided the photographs.

Our two past volunteer events at both raingardens were published on the City's Facebook page, with a thank-you to all of the volunteers. Diane said the high school students names were only printed with approval from the program director of Vineland High School.

Diane attended the NJ Shade Tree Federation conference. There was a session on "Neonicotinoid Legislative Update", which turned out to not be an update at all, but rather was a lobbyist looking to gain support to oppose the bill that would outlaw neonicotinoids. The session was misleading and divisive and leaders of the session were urging attendees to call their legislators. Diane responded to a survey for the conference that she believed the classes at the conference should not be used as a platform for lobbyists.

The 2023 meeting schedule was presented. All were in favor.

Members were invited to attend the Planning Board's public meetings regarding State Plan Endorsement.

Diane reminded the Tree Committee to prepare for the submission of the Committee's annual report to City Council, due in January.

Lisa is registered for one of the online Rutgers classes that will give us the required CEU's for our annual requirements to keep our active Community Forestry Management Plan status.

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