

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Charles Valentine, Sue Fenili, virtually David Lowenstern and Lisa Fleming, and guest Ellen Pedersen.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 meeting was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. In favor were Diane Amico, Charles Valentine, Sue Fenili, and Lisa Fleming. David Lowenstern abstained.

Diane gave the budget report. All of the line item balances are the same as last month. We still have \$1000 in nursery stock because this year's Arbor Day trees were purchased with grant money. The balance of the No Net Loss Grant is \$6,390.

There is no update on the stormwater management plan grant for Giampietro Park. Lisa has been making arrangements with Public Works for the sign installation. The gardens may benefit from a small picket fence. It was noted that someone did some weedwacking.

Since members have been tabling at events, it was suggested that we get a canopy and a printed banner for the front of the table. A motion to purchase a banner up to \$150 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor. A motion to purchase a canopy for exhibits, for up to \$100 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.

Willow Oak may have some areas affected by the pine bark beetle. If this can be verified we should follow up with action or removal of affected trees.

Raingardens should be put on a maintenance schedule. There are still a lot of weeds in the raingarden even after hiring the landscaper. A decision needs to be made for next steps. It was decided to try to do July 9 at 8:00 a.m. at the Annex, after checking with John on his schedule. Lisa was planning to plant more plants at the library and noted that the coneflowers across the front are tall and placed in a row. These may be worth rearranging toward the back slope. Fall would be a good time to move plants. The row of bushes discussed previously may also not look good if placed across the front. The front should be reserved for low growing plants. For the Annex, we should start a transition plan to move plants out in the event the garden is removed.

Two things that need to be done that need Professional Services are the ERI and the Community Forestry Management Plan update. If we put together the budget line item with the balance of the grant, there may be enough money to get at least one of those things done.

National Night Out will be held on August 2 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

John has some site plans for review, so comments may be forthcoming. The truck yard on Maurice River Pky was postponed at the May Zoning Board meeting. The property is still being cleared of buildings.

The Green Fair was a success. There were 38 vendors. Hopefully this will become an annual event. Seventeen people signed up for the backyard habitat program. Pictures were shared on the screen with members.

Diane attended a City Council worksession on May 17<sup>th</sup> to clarify our organization and procedures, and to provide a discussion of our projects. Council members were interested in the Tree Committee's responsibilities and street trees. She discussed our current and past projects, including the riparian buffer at Giampietro. Some Council members asked about street trees and sidewalk issues. There was also concern about the trees planted at Giampietro being too close together.

John Casadia said the Environmental Commission's comments are being heard by the Planning Board and those comments were beneficial in the modification of the Chick-Fil-A plans.

David spoke to the Cumberland County Mosquito Commission at the Green Fair regarding eradicating mosquitos from the storm drains, and they had indicated that they are short-handed. It is unknown exactly what this type of work would entail and whether it is something that could be done on our own or do they need to be there. David will look into it further. In general, reducing standing water is a good thing. This is a good topic to discuss with residents at National Night Out. If someone can find a one-page handout, it can be used at the event.

The Salem Oak Seedling can be planted as soon as the spot is marked by John. The 3 dogwoods are still sitting and waiting for the holes to be dug at the southeast mini-park. Sue is keeping the trees watered.

After last month's discussion on problems with space for street trees when there is a sidewalk, Diane has been telling residents that we cannot accommodate resident requests for trees.

Diane passed on the 7 color handouts to Ellen for the Community Wildlife Habitat program. We are only passing out the small cards, since it is too much color copying for all of the handouts. On the program's website, there are already 32 registered properties in Vineland, which gives us a head-start.

A blurb appeared in the Electric Utility's quarterly newsletter regarding volunteering with the Environmental Commission.

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