

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Minutes – Regular meeting  
April 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were: Diane Amico, Sue Fenili, John Pedersen, Ariana Headley, David Lowenstern, Lisa Fleming, and guests Ellen Pedersen and Josh Aderholdt. John Casadia entered later.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting was made by Sue Fenili and seconded by Lisa Fleming. All were in favor.

The budget report is still reflecting temporary budget amounts of approximately half of what the full budget will be. The budget was passed around to members. The Developers Tree Fund has \$41,250 and the No Net Loss Fund has \$6,061. We received the bill for the Shade Tree Federation membership for \$190.

The Seedling Giveaway is coming up. Details for that day were reviewed to make sure everything is covered. We are only receiving 200 seedlings.

John Pedersen planted the seedlings purchased from the NJ State Nursery. The Beach Plums are at S. Vineland Park, and the Atlantic White-cedar are at Willow Oak.

The next event we are scheduled to attend is the Green Fair on June 3.

The volunteer day at Willow Oak was rained out and no volunteers showed up. John Pedersen still worked there, but it was too wet to paint the trail markers. Sherman Williams donated red, blue, yellow, and white paint.

The controlled burn was completed at Willow Oak. Public Works mowed in advance. John Casadia re-installed the bluebird houses. John Pedersen said the City has been mowing the roadside more aggressively along the roadside, and the trees have been topped.

John Casadia entered the meeting.

The controlled burn at Willow Oak was completed. There are a lot of briars in the field, which is not a meadow plant, but rather the beginning of succession into a wooded area. There was discussion of whether large areas should be mowed through the field or only narrow walking paths. David Lowenstern made a motion that no paths be mowed through the Willow Oak field. John Casadia seconded. Roll call vote: Diane No, Sue No, John Casadia No, John Pedersen No, David Yes, Ariana abstained pending more information, Lisa No. The motion did not pass. A new motion to restrict path mowing to the width of a regular deck mower, and that we do not ask the City to mow it, was made by David Lowenstern and seconded by Sue Fenili and Ariana. All were in favor.

A tree planting is planned for Saturday April 22 at Pagliughi Park on Magnolia Rd. The trees coming from County Line Nursery are very large and difficult to handle.

Lisa planted 12 Oakleaf Hydrangeas at the Library. We have 8 more. It was noted that Public Works has been mowing the riparian buffer at Giampietro Park. If we plant them at the riparian buffer at Giampietro, they could be mowed. Therefore, these will be offered to the Library. An alternate option could be the alley next to the post office.

It was noted that there is a large stand of bamboo growing into Willow Oak from behind the strip mall at Lincoln & Landis. Invasive species is a topic we should address in the future.

Natural Vineland will be at the Wheaton EcoFair on May 6. May is Native Plant month and the Community Wildlife Program is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is offering discounts. They are trying to get a Proclamation from the City, and they have been in contact with Pat Finley from Licenses & Inspections.

Sue assisted the Cub Scouts plant a tree at Pagliughi Park earlier today. Arbor Day is coming up and she is working with D'Ippolito School for a planting. A second school has requested a tree.

Site Plan applications: The owner of Days Inn near Sherman Ave & Delsea Dr. are proposing a tent in front of their building to sell fireworks. Details of other applications were summarized. Near Sherman and Orchard, a senior village is proposed. There are no variances and the applicant mentions saving trees. The size of the lot indicates there should be some money paid into the tree fund for tree removal. John will fill out the comment forms for 2 applications. A veterinary office is planned for the corner of Landis and State St. A small private school is planned for on N. East Avenue.

Landis Sewerage Authority is hosting an Earth Day festival on April 15<sup>th</sup> with habitat tours. If we want to attend, the tables are free.

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