

Vineland Environmental Commission
Minutes
Regular Meeting November 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Charles Valentine, Sue Fenili, Lisa Fleming, John Pedersen, and guests Katherine Dollman from NJDEP, Ellen Pedersen, Josh Aderholdt, and David Ferrara Americorps Watershed Ambassador. John Casadia entered later.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Lisa Fleming. All were in favor.

The budget report was passed around. The No Net Loss Grant has now been completely used. Future tree plantings will come out of the Developer's Fund.

David Lowenstern has resigned from the Commission as of the end of this most recent term, and a recommendation was submitted for Josh Aderholdt to be appointed as a member.

Lisa reported on the Giampietro Park project. The final result was less of a drainage solution with channels and more of a "garden" than what was expected. She met some residents in the park who were enthusiastic and thought it looked good. The Littoral Society contributed 4 redbud trees. She spoke to Jim Neher of Public Works, who will take care of redistributing the dirt and grass that was removed as part of the project. Various types of plants and their new locations were discussed. The Littoral Society has mentioned putting a fence around the area, and they would buy it. Public Works has not been in favor of fencing in the past. Fencing options were discussed. Small sections spaced sporadically will be better than a long straight line.

Katherine from NJDEP said that the Illegal Dumping Camera program is progressing with training sessions for the staff of the city's Div. of Solid Waste Mgmt.

John Casadia entered the meeting.

There was finally a connection with the consultant for the Natural Resource inventory and a virtual conference was held. Lisa discussed the mapping and suggested improvements. There are some gaps in getting the most recent information, as most of the DEP mapping is showing information from 2020, but Vineland has had much development in the last 4 years. The consultant is willing to add a GIS layer for properties that we know are developed, but are not yet included on the DEP map showing land use changes. Lisa will utilize the list of development applications to identify large projects that are known to affect forested areas, and this will be submitted to Marathon Engineering.

Diane thanked everyone who worked at the Landis Park tree planted. It was the most well-attended event we have had, with 80 people in attendance. Several families were there, and attendees said that they had fun. There are many trees leftover. We have already satisfied the planting portion of the grant. It was decided to hold a tree giveaway on December 7 at John Pedersen's office, where the trees are already being stored. Diane said the Arbor Day Foundation, the grant provider, requires, and will be receiving, lists of all participants

and locations where the free trees will be planted. It was noted that the water tap in the Memorial Circle at the park is under an account belonging to the Recreation Dept.

The Community Wildlife Habitat Program has gained another 5 points for an invasive map of Willow Oak that was submitted.

Development applications in the pipeline were discussed. There were several projects that involve tree removal, but these were not large enough for the Tree Ordinance to apply.

David Ferrara introduced himself as the current Watershed Ambassador for Watershed 17. He is available for any assistance or project ideas for partnerships.

The Littoral Society posted on Facebook that they partnered with Vineland High School to plant 220 trees at South Vineland Park as a riparian buffer project funded by NJ Fish & Wildlife. It is not known whether the trees are actually on city property. The trees are in tubes near the northwest portion of the park, which possibly lies in a low area that floods.

A motion to purchase 3 boxes of plastic strapping for tree staking, and also to spend \$100 on wood stakes at Vineland Produce Auction was made by John Casadia and seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor.

A motion to use the remainder of our budget money on an open purchase order at Reuben Hardware, for mulch and other items, amount to be determined after the plastic strapping is purchased, was made by Sue Fenili and seconded by Lisa Fleming. All were in favor.

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

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