

Vineland Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2025

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, Lisa Fleming, John Pedersen, and Charles Valentine. John Casadia entered later. Also present were guests, Katherine Dollman NJDEP, Ellen Pedersen, Nora Zielinski, Deborah Ein, and Naomi Ingraldi.

A motion to approve of the minutes of the September 8, 2025, meeting was made by Lisa Fleming and seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor.

The Chairperson noted that both Sue Fenili and Josh Aderholdt's member appointments are due for renewal this month.

The budget report for the standard line-item budget was passed around.

We have received a formal request in the form of a Resolution from the Vineland Historical Society and Citizens United to name the trail at Willow Oak after Mary Treat. Deb Ein and Naomi Ingraldi were present to talk about why the Willow Oak area is an appropriate spot to be named, based on where Mary Treat lived and studied. Commission members are in favor of the renaming. It was decided to include all the trails, the trail system, not just the main trail. The next step is signage, to be consistent with styles of the existing signs at the entrance. A reception will be held in the spring. The Resolution will be forwarded to City Council with a recommendation from the Commission for the naming of the trails. Diane will find out at which Council meeting it will be heard.

John Casadia entered the meeting.

Katherine Dollman is going to a meeting next week where she may find out about the previously discussed camera for Willow Oak. Ongoing issues at Willow Oak were discussed.

The Littoral Society sent two drafts of signage for the Giampietro Park swale. There is one reference to the pond being called Memorial Park Pond which should be changed to Giampietro Park pond. The name of the stream and creek should also be investigated and included.

Lisa said that the mulch in the Giampietro Park swale is keeping the weeds down. It is noted that there is a small patch of phragmites starting to grow there. We received an offer from Michelle Villar of VHS for native plants from the Butterfly Garden, as they are doing a fall clean out and separating the plants.

This month's volunteer project took place at Willow Oak. Nora said that in October there was a lot of clearing done, and many plants were put in along the trail. Those were mostly shrubs because the nursery didn't have many trees available. The next workday will be November 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Tarkiln Branch is still in need of cleaning, but it is now getting too late to plan for this fall.

Diane asked members for ideas on what to do with the Annex rain garden, which is getting very overgrown. Some members would like to get some plants out of there to be moved elsewhere.

There were no comments on Planning or Zoning applications. One application was a re-do of a project we had previously commented on.

There was a question of the old vs. new tree ordinance requirements, and how the Planning Board can grant waivers when the ordinance is a State requirement. We do not have an ordinance that is currently in compliance with State requirements.

John Casadia reported on the progress of the wildflower meadow on East Wheat Road, which is still in bloom.

Diane said that there is still a need to get a tree inventory done for the Community Forestry Management Plan. We did not use our budget money this year because we didn't have a written request for proposals. There was discussion of what is required to do a tree inventory.

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