

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, John Pedersen, Lisa Fleming, Josh Aderholdt, Ariana Headley, and Charles Valentine. Also present were guests Ellen Pedersen and Katie Pollard.

Approval of the minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting, with one correction, was made by Lisa Fleming and seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor. The section on Giampietro Park will be amended to read that the disc golf club is cutting vegetation in the riparian buffer, not the newly planted swale.

The budget report was passed around. The bulk of the budget is in Professional Services for this years planned update to the Community Forestry Management Plan and a partial tree inventory if money allows.

A guest in attendance, Katie Pollard, who is a teacher, inquired into having someone speak at her school in Williamstown.

The cost of paper copies of the Environmental Resource inventory is more than previously approved. The document is over 400 pages, so the cost is \$45 each, plus \$35 shipping. A motion to spend up to \$125 was made by John Pedersen. Lisa amended the motion to include that the paper document should include 11 x 17 fold-out maps. The motion was seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor. If the consultant is willing to provide 2 copies of the Resource inventory without the addenda, plus one copy of the addendum only, and it is still under \$125, that would be acceptable.

The TreeKeepers Workshop by the NJ Tree Foundation will be on May 31, at the Vineland Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are responsible for cleaning up the room afterwards. The NJ Tree Foundation will provide coffee and doughnuts. As soon as the flyer is available, Diane will forward it to all.

At the May 10 Second Saturday, John, Ellen, and Josh planted additional black cherry trees at Giampietro Park. The next date will be June 14, also at Giampietro Park. Lisa has been cleaning out the garden there by removing old growth, and noted that things are coming up in the swale, but there are also some ruts where someone drove through it.

At the Library raingarden, Lisa has been doing maintenance and noted that phlox is blooming. There is some milkweed that was not planted there and maybe should be removed. She is cutting the old growth and leaving it there. Eight of the twelve hydrangeas are alive. There are about 10 trees coming up in the garden that should not be there. Removing some, and relocating others, was discussed. Diane was asked to find out if Public Works will allow planting of some of them in the strip along the Lincoln Avenue entrance to Giampietro Park.

Diane was in contact with the US EPA officer who is working on the KillTone Superfund site, and had previously asked if the City could facilitate the cleaning of Tarkiln Branch stream, to let him know that a partial cleanup has been done on City property near West Avenue and Shirley Ct. He thanked us for that,

and indicated that if we can get another volunteer group together, he could work on getting property owner permission for access to additional parts of the stream. John said that there is one area that is bad that would require only 2 property owners to agree, plus one more for access. He will mark those on a map and forward to Diane, as a suggestion to EPA that we focus on this area first. The water is high right now so a fall cleanup would be better. It was noted that the Vineland Housing Authority properties adjacent to the stream have been kept relatively clean, but next door there is an apartment complex with an overflowing dumpster, and a swale that flows under an opening in the fence, that carries trash directly into the stream.

There were no development applications requiring official comments. The Mavis Tire project will be removing trees but the size of the disturbance is under the tree ordinance threshold.

Rick Tonetta forwarded written comments on the Dun-Rite Sand & Gravel project from Citizen's United to Protect the Maurice River. The development application may have been discussed at a recent City Council meeting, as the application involved requesting an exception to a City ordinance.

John said at Willow Oak the tree roots are high and exposed on some parts of the trails. These could benefit from being covered with mulch. Bagged cedar mulch is expensive, and trucked-in mulch cannot be left in the parking lot. Options will be explored for the best and most economical way to accomplish this. Some of the trailheads were not mowed when the rest of the mowing was done earlier this spring.

The need to update the Community Forestry Management Plan before the current one expires was discussed. The new plans have more extensive requirements, including tree inventories. Diane will look for sample RFPs, possibly from the NJ Div. of Forestry webinars. We previously received a quote from Davey Environmental for \$25,000 for a tree inventory. For this amount, we need to go through the public bidding process.

There are only a few remaining trees from the fall giveaway. John will take care of planting them.

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