

Vineland Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Lisa Fleming, Josh Aderholdt, Sue Fenili, and Charles Valentine. Also present were guests R.J. Francheschini, Dana Palma, Levi Palma, and Nora Zeilinski.

The keyboard and mouse were not in the conference room, and there is no longer a computer to access MS Teams, so the meeting was unable to be recorded and NJDEP was unable to join in via internet.

A motion to approve of the minutes of the May 12, 2025 meeting was made by Lisa Fleming and seconded by Charles Valentine. All were in favor.

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

Paper copies of the ERI have been ordered. It was unable to be broken out into separate sections. It was verified that the maps will be 11" x 17" fold-out.

Josh plans to work at Giampietro Park this Saturday with John & Ellen Pedersen. Last month, 10 trees were planted. There are 2 dead redbud trees to be removed and some deadwood on the willows in the small round garden.

Diane still needs the information for the properties along the Tarkiln Branch that were reported to be the most littered so we can follow up with next steps.

Lisa removed about half of the trees growing in the Library raingarden. She tried to save some, but there are still some there. She has been monitoring the Giampietro Park garden and things look o.k.

There were no comments on development applications.

Diane discussed the Supreme Court decision narrowing the scope of NEPA reviews, as it relates to the weight of using Environmental Impact Statements during development reviews.

The TreeKeepers Workshop at the Library was a success. There were 14 attendees who had classroom instruction followed by hands-on tree trimming outside. Participants received a small foldable handsaw and pruners, as well as a dichotomous key Tree ID book. The range of topics covered a wide range of knowledge that would be very useful to homeowners. There were attendees from as far as an hour away, and included employees of Rutgers and some non-profit organizations.

We provided 9 trees (three species of shade trees) to the VDD for their tree planting at Gonzalez Park.

Diane spoke about an article on environmental data crowdsourcing that said some of the phone apps for logging in plants or animal sightings are now being used for reference by government entities as well as professionals as a reliable data source.

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