

Vineland Environmental Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Lisa Fleming, John Pedersen, and Sue Fenili. Also present was R.J. Franceschini of the Vineland Voice.

A motion to approve of the minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting was made by Lisa Fleming and seconded by John Pedersen. All were in favor.

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

The next volunteer work day will be held September 13 at Willow Oak to continue the invasive plant removal, starting at 8:00 a.m. October second Saturday is being planned as a planting day.

Lisa discussed the method of removing and bagging the berries, and what to do with what is removed. John said it is o.k. to remove berries now but there is a need to make space for the replacement plants. Lisa may arrange for a day to go out to remove berries, with whoever else can assist, and will coordinate with Diane for notification to Public Works.

At the raingardens, some phlox is still in bloom. At the Giampietro swale, the witch-hazel is not looking good. Lisa will install tree diapers to see if that saves them. There is a need for work in the Giampietro Riparian buffer, including removal of poison ivy. Some non-chemical methods of killing them were discussed.

There were no development applications needing environmental related discussion or comments.

Diane noted the problems with the old laptop and the inability to use the internet or screen in the conference room for meetings. She obtained a verbal approximate estimate from the City's IS Division for a new laptop of \$1500. A motion to purchase a new laptop was made by Lisa Fleming and seconded by Diane Amico. All were in favor.

As members notice problems around the City that need to be called in to various departments for action, such as trash on the side of the road or potholes, these single one-off complaints can be entered on the MyVineland App from any phone. Longer discussions such as policy discussions or ongoing issues should still come through the Commission. The responsibilities of various departments was discussed to make sure the complaint gets to the right person. Diane previously sent a list of County roads to members, since those are not handled by the City nor should be sent on the app.

A motion was made by John Pedersen to spend up to \$1500 for fall planting of trees and shrubs. This purchase would likely be made from Pinelands. The Motion was seconded by Lisa Fleming. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Lisa Fleming to spend up to \$150 on "buckthorn bags" for the invasive species at Willow Oak. The Motion was seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor. This is a specialty item from a company not in NJ, so the method of purchase will need to be researched.

Adjournment by consensus.