

Vineland Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Charlie Valentine, John Pedersen, and Ariana Headley. John Casadia entered later. Also present were guests Ellen Pedersen, Matt Williams, and Diane D'Amico of the Vineland Voice.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2025 and November 20, 2025 meetings was made by Charlie Valentine and seconded by Ariana Headley. All were in favor.

The budget report for the standard line-item budget was passed around. The amounts in the line items are currently only temporary appropriations until the final budget is passed by City Council. There is approximately \$36,000 in the developers' tree fund. The tree giveaway for residents, previously discussed for a fall event, would be funded from this.

Diane said there was not a quorum for the last two meetings although there were visitors. The Vineland Historical Society is looking towards the Willow Oak trail opening and naming in the spring, around April. We are awaiting a design and wording.

A final draft for the signage at the raingarden at Giampietro was sent to all members for review. Charles Valentine made a motion to approve the sign draft. Ariana seconded. All were in favor. The signs will be purchased by the American Littoral Society and will also be in Spanish.

Charlie said Willow Oak has quite a bit of activity and there are frequently cars there. Diane said Public Works has been making an effort to be there regularly and to keep the area clean. Diane was in contact with NJ Forest Fire Service and we are on track for this year's prescribed burn.

For the Tarkiln Park branch stream cleanup is still pending information on the locations that need to be done first so we can contact EPA for residents' permission.

Development applications are pending review by the Site Plan Review Committee.

An update was given by guest Matt Williams on the data center. DEP is aware of a request for public comment. There is an open question on the NJDEP website regarding "common control", where the applicant's response has not yet been posted.

Ariana will be attending a Watershed workshop. The current water ordinance was discussed.

The idea of Brownfields re-use came up recently during a recent development application review, where an applicant said there was no other industrial land available. It would be good if the City could investigate available Brownfields and associated funding opportunities.

John Pedersen asked about the City Tree Plan to be submitted to City Council. Diane will send the last thing we have to him for reference.

Diane submitted the annual report for the Community Forestry Program. It is not easily printed because the current format is an online screen that it filled in.

John Casadia entered the meeting. He will take the bluebird nesting boxes down at Willow Oak before the prescribed burn takes place. He explained the benefits of the prescribed burns. He also has a high school student helping him work for community service hours. We can confirm his hours for him in the form of a certificate if needed.

The public meeting given at the Landis Theater by the CEO of the data center was discussed. It appears that the presentation used the engineers numbers rather than data that was scientifically backed regarding pollution, megawatts, and energy and more. The technology proposed is not yet proven, and the water usage is still an unknown.

John Casadia asked if anyone has a good location for bluebird nesting boxes, let him know and he can install them. John Pedersen said West Side Park may be a possibility.

The City's current Water Conservation ordinance was discussed, and how it relates to what Sustainable Jersey required.

DunRite's application for a Class B recycling center was discussed. The Commission had commented a while back, but the City did not hear the application because Vineland has an ordinance prohibiting that use in a Woodlands zone. The applicant is now going to NJ State for approval. The City solicitor has already written to the State on behalf of the City. NJ State does have a process for getting public comment on siting of recycling centers.

Diane thanked the guests for attending.

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