

**West Deptford Environmental Commission
Minutes
20 October 2014**

Present: Dave Sileo, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Bob Waller, Ernie Kraus, John Keuler and Miriam Reichenbach

Public: Gina Carolla

Note: Dave Keller resigned from the Commission due to family and work commitments.

Call to Order: Dave Sileo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve minutes by Ernie Kraus, seconded by Carl Ford. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Ed moved and Ernie seconded a motion to open the meeting to public comment. No comment.

Old Business:

ERI Update: John told us the information is now in the hands of the solicitor. He expects the RFP to go out in early November and have the information back by late November. Then the twp. can put out the bid (?) in early December. The sub-committee will look it over before sending out the RFP.

Do Not Mow Areas: No further development. John will talk with Matt Moore again after the 1st of the year for future mowing plans. Commission should look at Jessup and Parkville area – is there less mowing? Dave asked if this could be a wildflower area? Carl suggested that the center island on Riverwinds Drive might be a flower area. Ernie believes flowers in this area might be a traffic safety issue.

New Business:

Chairperson's Report: no report.

Planning Board: no report.

Earth Day: Rain barrel project – Dave spoke with big sponsors like Home Depot, etc. We could have work stations with age appropriate activities. We want it to be a no-cost activity. Both Dave Keller and John DiCarlo have access to empty barrels. Miriam suggested we speak with Kit Reeve, a Woodbury graphic designer, about an attractive design (stencil) to use on the rain barrels. Dave spoke with local recreation and school groups about involvement. We need plans for screening, piping, etc. Miriam moved and Carl seconded a motion to make the rain barrels our project for Earth Day this coming year. The motion passed unanimously.

Date for ANJEC Site Planning: See the ANJEC web site. Perhaps a meeting in WD in late winter or very early spring. January would be ideal.

Vice-chair's Report: Dave Keller resigned due to extensive work and family commitments.

Financial Report: Ernie asked that we let him know if we are requesting any money and/or reimbursements. Dave is going to the Environmental Congress on Friday. Bob is attending the Grant Writing segment of the Congress at the Crowne Plaza.

For the Good of the Order: Ed attended the Gloucester County Nature Club meeting where there was a great presentation on our local flora and fauna. He met with ambassadors from AmeriCorps/watershed management. Joe Traum is interested in creating liaisons in this region. He would like to attend our meetings and perhaps present a workshop. He is very interested in our rain barrel project. This is a good connection for us. Dave can reach out and ask for their help.

Ed reminded the group that we need to replace Dave Keller and elect a new vice-chair of the Commission.

Dave said that he is still trying to meet up with the teachers at the high school. Also, the Commission in Monroe Twp is interested in partnering for some activities.

Carl told the group that various homeowners associations in West Deptford list many restrictions for homeowners – no solar panels, no rain barrels, no vegetable gardens, etc. Bob suggested the Planning Board might ask for a copy of rules in advance and look at the environmental impact issues.

Ed had two items. 1. The twp. has to appoint people so we have a full/complete commission. 2. We must choose a new vice-chair. Dave said that Joe Rhyner, from the CAP group is interested in filling a seat. Ed mentioned that Ken Miller,

also from CAP, is interested as well. Also, the twp. needs look into to appointing alternates. Dave said we would table the vice-chair issue for now.

Dave mentioned the Sustainable NJ packets from the twp.

Dave accepted a motion made by Ed and seconded by Ernie that we table the choice of a vice-chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Ernie moved and Carl seconded a motion to open to public comment. Gina Carolla reminded the group that the Sunoco plant had a field of wild flowers this past spring and summer. She also suggested that Sustainable NJ might have grant money for empty barrels for our earth Day project. She also suggested that a local artist might create a stencil to use for painting the barrels. Gina has two (2) rain barrels herself, and she invited the Commission members to visit and look at what she has done. Gina told us that the water shed ambassadors are a great group to work with. She also told the group that there are issues between home owners groups and the owners themselves (who want solar panels). State statute supersedes all other regulations. Additionally, Gina told us that Greenwald is looking into creating legislation to allow changes in homeowners rules -- i.e. clothes lines, solar panels, etc. Regarding the Solvay Solexus issue – there was no quorum to make any decisions.

Ed reported that Solvay reports at each CAP meeting. The current sense is that management is “circling the wagons”. Solvay may be a contributor to our water contamination problem, but not the only contributor – according to Solvay. The DEP is overseeing the issue.

Adjourn: motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Reichenbach, secretary