

**West Deptford Environmental Commission
Minutes
16 June 2014**

Present: Dave Sileo, Dave Keller, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Miriam Reichenbach, and John Keuler.

Public:

Absent: Ernie Kraus, Bob Waller

Call to Order: Dave Sileo called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Carl Ford, seconded by Ed Komczyk. Dave Sileo abstained. Motion passed; one abstention.

Secretary's Report: no report.

Public Comment: no public present.

Old Business:

ERI Update: Ed asked John about the township budget and what will be allocated to the environmental commission. John explained that the committee is working through the approval process. There is \$6000 (which includes the donations) in the line item for the commission. John expects final adoption of the budget at the 3 July meeting. He noted that the township is subject to annual monitoring due to the heavy debt load carried by West Deptford. Dave S. pointed out that \$2500 in donations is included in that \$6000 figure. Additionally, Dave stated that he has not exhausted the possibility of obtaining grants. The Sustainable NJ (an ongoing grant) is in the hands of Brandon Umba. Dave S. remarked that there appears to be an appreciation for the necessity of an accurate, up-to-date ERI. The group is still vetting groups to produce the ERI and has not yet settled on a provider. We can't really move forward until we have approved budget figures.

Dave K. stated that the committee needs to specify exactly what it wants the provider to include in the ERI. As a "professional service" we do not need to go with the lowest bidder. However, if we must put out an RFP, then we will create a very specific list of what we expect the ERI to contain. Dave K. said that these documents tend to be standard; then the company adds the bells and whistles as requested.

Geiger Property: discussion between Ed and Dave S. regarding the letter relating to the property. Dave is very unhappy (my words) that the letter was sent without his consent. It was pointed out to Dave that the letter was not sent. The commission voted to approve the letter, but it did not mail it. Dave will work through our liaison to resolve this issue. John told us that the township committee is still working on the issue. We still need to look more at the Polyrez grounds and deed restrictions. Anthony Ogozalek needs to clarify some issues. There is potential interest in the Polyrez property by another entity.

Adopt-a-Park: no report.

Do Not Mow Areas: Carl has looked at some practices (see Pinelands Commission www.pinelandsalliance.org/downloads/pinelandsalliance_350.doc handout. Page 3). There don't appear to be standards from the Dept of Transportation. The State has not mowed many areas, so far this year. Perhaps they are following some guidelines. Dave K. said there don't appear to be guidelines for the coastal plains areas, but the information from Carl looks good. Regular mow zones should be adopted by the township; perhaps try to move guidelines forward for use by the twp. Could we ask someone to come and talk to the group? Dave S. proposed we ask Matt Moore. John will speak with Matt. Currently, there is no mowing schedule. Carl reminded us that not mowing is a cost saving measure. Dave S. suggested that a guidance document might be helpful to the twp. Such a document could also include information about basin projects. John offered to set up a meeting – perhaps for July. Dave S. suggested that perhaps other states have documentation that we could find helpful. There is no "do not mow" list available at the moment.

Funding Grants: no report. John will look into Sustainable NJ.

Local Ordinances: Dave S. reported about the no smoking areas at Wawa. The ordinance says no smoking within 25' of a public building. Miriam asked about signs at the public buildings (library, police, municipal, Riverwinds, etc). John will check.

Ed asked Carl about mowing during the dormant season. Carl recommended March as appropriate.

New Business:

Chairperson's Report: no new business. There is a report from the Planning Committee. Johnson Matthey wants to build seven (7) tanks to store solvents (will replace 55 gal. drums). An anti-freeze recycling facility wishes to store equipment locally. This request was approved by the planning committee.

Ed requested that Dave set up a site plan reading workshop through ANJEC for the members of the Commission. The contact person is Jody Carrera.

Vice-chair's Report: Dave stated that he has a draft of recommendations for Strawberry Vale which he will email to members. Please respond to Dave with suggestions. He hopes to have a document for our next meeting.

There is no progress yet on the forestry project. Dave will contact Brandon Umba for specific info needed to complete the application (tax id #, etc.)

Add to the next agenda: ideas for West Deptford Day and, perhaps, other fall projects.

Dave K. asked Carl if any seeding was done at the D R Horton site. Carl will check with Bob Waller.

Financial Report: no report. There is \$600 (including donations) proposed for the coming year. Dave K. asked if we can use donated money now? John said no, nothing can be spent until the budget is approved. Dave K. then asked if the money will roll over if not spent? No. There is the equivalent of a "freeze and sweep". Dave S. said that if the ERI is not approved by the twp. the money allocated to the commission still needs to be spent. Dave K. asked about carrying over the line item in 2015. John believes that will happen.

For the Good of the Order: nothing.

Public Comment: nothing

Adjourn: Ed moved and Dave K. seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Reichenbach, secretary