

West Deptford Environmental Commission
Minutes
15 September 2014

Present: Dave Sileo, Dave Keller, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Ernie Kraus, and Miriam Reichenbach

Absent: Bob Waller, John Keuler

Public: Cathy Sherf

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Dave Sileo, seconded by Ed Komczyk. Motion passed; Dave Keller abstained.

Carl mentioned that he took a group to see the wild flowers at the old Sunoco plant. Planting the wild flowers saved 2/3 of the mowing cost!

Secretary's Report: no report.

Public Comment: no comment.

Old Business:

ERI Update: paperwork is now all in the hands of John Keuler and Brandon Umba. Now it is time to move forward to the RFP stage. John feels that we need three (3) bids before moving on. No timetable yet.

Do Not Mow Areas: Carl has had no recent contact with Matt Moore, though there appears to be less mowing taking place. There are more flowers showing up in open spaces. Dave K. said the D.R.Horton plot looks good, but is not like the Sunoco property.

West Deptford Day Wrap-up: Ed was unhappy with the location of our tent. We should be stationed with the municipal services tents. Dave S. says we should have the same size tent next year, but we need additional tables. We could have used misters on such a hot day to cool the public and keep the flowers alive and perky.

Public Comment: Dave S. moved and Ed seconded a motion to open to public comment. Cathy Sherf remarked that our tent was in a better position last year. Overall, the occasion was not as good as in previous years when the township had fireworks.

New Business:

Chairperson's Report: no report.

Planning Board: no report.

Earth Day: Dave K. will have class/project involvement. Bring your ideas to the next meeting. Miriam asked if this would be a good time to start a rain barrel project. Carl told the group that the price for building a rain barrel is all over the place. Dave K. said he has access to 50 gallon drums at work. He will save them. Miriam will ask Riverwinds pool if they purchase liquid chlorine in 50 gallon drums.

Date for ANJEC Site Planning: Dave S. has reached out but has no response yet.

Vice-chair's Report: no report on Strawberry Vale or Forestry. Dave said he could use some help. If anyone has ideas and time they should work with Dave via email. We need work on awareness, parking and signage; Dave has some ideas. He will send out a request for comments and ideas. There is an entrance to Strawberry Vale through Greenfields Heights.

Financial Report: no report.

Google maps has a designated site for environmental sites. There is an ANJEC program in October; look for flyer on your email. Brandon stated that there is nothing in the Planning Board files with a generic RFP for an ERI. While there is no need for an RFP, **we will still need to get three (3) quotes.**

For the Good of the Order: Carl walked the scenic trail at Riverwinds and noted many invasive species taking hold. We should ask the township to act to control these species. Carl identified 11 species of invasive plants on his tour. Could Dave K's students get involved in an eradication project? It will take a huge and constant effort to keep these plants under control. Maybe we can ask for help from the Boy Scouts? **There may be a need to look at deed restrictions before moving forward.**

There is a deer overpopulation problem at Riverwinds. Can the township hire a firm to cull the population? Dave S. asked if we should be meeting at the township building. The group concluded that it is more economical, and nicer, to meet at Riverwinds.

Public Comment: Ed moved and Dave K. seconded a motion to open to public comment. Cathy Sherf remarked that culling deer would be a hard sell to the public. She asked if there was any new news from Solvay. Brandon replied that drilling is taking place to determine just how wide-spread the contamination is. This drilling has been ordered by the DEP. **A few residents have initiated a class-action suit. The township will determine what to do with this. Perhaps they will connect private well properties with the public water lines.**

There was considerable explanation from Brandon about well testing, both public and private. Other townships (Woodbury, East Greenwich, Greenwich and Paulsboro) may look into joining this law suit. Right now, Paulsboro has no connection to NJ American Water. Most of the surrounding areas are in a wait-and-see mode.

Cathy Sherf wanted to know if we can ask the DEP to extend the mandate beyond 2014. This is probably not needed. The DEP is talking "tough love".

Cathy Sherf asked Dave K. if Mike Hogan (SJLWT) might be a good source for a restoration project.

Adjourn: motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Reichenbach, secretary