

**West Deptford Environmental Commission  
Minutes  
16 March 2015**

**Present:** Joe Rhyner, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Miriam Reichenbach, Ken Miller, Eric Agren

**Absent:** Mayor Denice DiCarlo

**Resigned:** Chairperson Dave Sileo

**Guest:** Jim Robinson

**Call to Order:** Joe Rhyner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Ed made a motion that we suspend the agenda; Joe seconded and the vote was unanimous. Ed said that he hoped Joe would accept the position as chair of the commission. Miriam suggested that we ask Joe to chair the March and April meetings. Joe accepted the notion of chairing these two meetings and then considering a more permanent position.

The secretary read an email from Denice and the commission discussed the plan to distribute and plant saplings in the township. Carl, Eric and Miriam are available for distribution from Riverwinds on 18 April. Joe and Ed may be available as well.

Motion to resume regular agenda by Ed; seconded by Ken. Unanimous vote.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes will be changed to clarify "alternate" positions on the commission. Minutes of the January meeting were approved unanimously, with change.

**Correspondence:** Ken will pick up all correspondence from the township offices on a bi-weekly basis. Joe explained that the engineer responded to the pump station situation by explaining there are old style wells (wet & dry) that must be moved above ground. Joe will examine the plans before the job moves forward. Ed asked why this move was necessary. Joe explained that that the pumps are old; there are safety issues; current situation is man-power intensive. Carl asked if this pump station dealt only with the effluent from the school. Joe believes this to be true.

Flyer from DEP asking for photos and news blurbs regarding Earth Day activities. We should send pictures to ANJEC as well.

**Public Comment:** nothing at this time.

**Old Business:**

ERI Update: Ed informed the group that the townships put out the RFP (for an environmental engineer; not what we need). Ed met with Jeff Totten (at twp) – there is no need to bid. Therefore, the submitted bids will probably all be rejected. There should be no issue about the money as the bulk of the money is in the line item to be used for an ERI. Ken told us that there is currently \$5400 in the line item. There was a questions about the money at the end of the fiscal year – does the money roll over to the new budget or does the twp do a "freeze and sweep" of all unspent funds? Carl asked if we had a dollar figure for the job from DVRPC. The answer is no, we don't. Eric talked about merging the ERI with the master plan for the twp. Ed told us that Denice talked about using the same company to do the ERI and the master plan. The Commission has a concern that one plan or the other might get short shrift or that this combined service might drag out the process. Joe said that since there were no conclusions from the last meeting; perhaps that is why this idea came to the twp. **Ed said he will chase down the price from DVRPC.** Eric asked if Ed had contacted the other group Eric mentioned. Ed said he had not.

Water Quality Issues: Ed would like this to be a permanent agenda item. The safety of both public and private water is an on-going issue. We should all take a look at the Riverkeepers on YouTube to be reminded of what some of the serious issues are. Carl said that estuary and tidal waters need to be monitored. Joe said we will keep the item on the agenda. There is nothing crucial at the moment to discuss today. Has the commission reviewed reports from the water system (July bill)? No. UCMR3 is a new regulation mandating testing for certain PFNAs, etc. in population areas over 10,000. Ed moved, Ken 2<sup>nd</sup>, that we make Water Quality Issues a permanent item agenda. Passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

Chair Report: There has been no annual report to the twp. **Joe will compile the report** with the assistance of commission members.

Earth Day Plans: 18 April is the sapling distribution date at Riverwinds. Johnson Matthey is planning a clean-up and family fun day/picnic at Riverwinds. The *friends* of the library are planning a clean-up at the library.

Site Planning: No firm date yet. **Ed will contact ANJEC** and get the 22 June date on the calendar.

Financial Report: There is \$5455 in the line item. Site plan reading workshop is not to exceed \$300. ANJEC will provide the workshop for \$250.

Planning Board: Eric said there was a plan to subdivide a lot; the request was withdrawn.

Ed distributed materials from ANJEC to new commission members. He asked that duplicates be returned to him.

Ed reported on the 3/7/15 ANJEC workshop, The Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions.

The presentation is available at [www.ANJEC.org](http://www.ANJEC.org)

Cheryl Reardon talked about the laws regarding commissions and about the open space index. The twp should have this so it can be included in the ERI.

Perhaps our members should attend planning and zoning board meetings on a rotating basis.

Eric would like a copy of the open space index from the twp. Also, he suggested that we might use school functions to display commission items – like photos from Earth Day, etc. We should also share our activities and photos with ANJEC.

For more information about a rain barrel project we should contact Katie Barnett (DEP) as she is the guru of this project and has access to both cheap barrels and hardware.

Cheryl Reardon mentioned her interest in music and her connections with local musicians who might be willing to play for free at community activities like WD Day.

There was a question about quorums (4 or more people from a committee meeting to do business); not an issue as an emergency notice can always go to the newspaper.

Suzanne McCarthy, formerly of the DVRPC, spoke about mapping, an open space index, and types of unused land. Maps and ERIs should include known contaminate sites and well-head areas. The ERI should be updated at least every ten (10) years, and it should be adopted into the master plan. Use the DVRPC web site to examine/print a completed ERI.

There was some discussion of combining the planning and zoning boards in small towns.

**Ed will ask ANJEC if the West Deptford Environmental Commission could host the workshop next year here at Riverwinds.**

## **For the Good of the Order**

Ken asked if we plan to continue with idea of a rain barrel project for September. Joe asked if we have someone to step up and take over the project. **Ken will contact Katie Barnett** and get additional information so we can make an informed decision.

**Eric will ask Mary Cummings to attend our next meeting.** Joe moved that we table a decision until the May meeting; Ed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.

Joe mentioned the possibility of our commission filing as a 503C. We are a government entity, so this is not possible. Joe also asked about the process for depositing any donations to the commission with the twp. We need an answer to that.

## **Adjourn**

Ed moved and Ken 2<sup>nd</sup> that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

## **After the Fact**

Eric mentioned that the newspaper reported 20,000 preserved acres in Gloucester County.

Joe asked if Phila Airport buys open space in south Jersey to abate noise. The Air Force does this. **Eric will ask about this issue.**