

**West Deptford Environmental Commission  
Minutes  
20 April 2015**

**Present:** Joe Rhyner, Ed Komczyk, Carl Ford, Miriam Reichenbach, Mayor Denice Di Carlo, Eric Agren

**Absent:** Ken Miller

**Guests:** Bob Waller, Mary Cummings

**Call to Order:** Joe Rhyner called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Carl Ford moved and Joe seconded the motion to accept the minutes as distributed.

Miriam distributed flyers announcing Earth Day activities at the public library.

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

**Old Business:**

ERI Update: Ed brought the group up to date on the cost of the ERI -- \$10,500 for DVRPC to do the work. After lengthy discussion regarding who should be involved in the process (long-time residents, students to do data mining, intern to glean info from stored documents, etc.) and a brief dialogue about a Master Plan in conjunction with an ERI the group concluded that we would ask DVRPC if they could accept payment for the ERI over a two year period. Eric pointed out that DVRPC has a grant process for updating the Master Plan; and Ed reminded us that the Master Plan needs to piggyback on an updated ERI. Joe advised the group that there is a budget of about \$4400, \$250 of which is already allocated to a site plan reading workshop. Ultimately, the Commission concluded that we must get a signed commitment from DVRPC to do the most they can accomplish this year for \$4000. Carl moved and Joe seconded a motion that we make a one year agreement with DVRPC (**Ed is the spokesperson for the Commission regarding an ERI**). The motion was accepted unanimously.

Water Quality Issues: We have no comments at this time on the info posted on the DEP web site regarding PFNOAs.

Denice said that Solvay's report (as to the DEP) stated that well#3 was shut down due to higher levels of PFNOAs. Individual wells tested by Solvay; working on getting high-level residential wells onto the city water system. DEP is adamant that wells must be sealed if city water is brought in. There was extensive discussion about the continued disuse/future use of well#3.

Ed explained that he spoke with Chuck Jones from Solvay, and he is willing to speak with our Commission, but he needs to clear that idea with management first.

Denice informed us that there is a plan for what to do, much like if there were a spill to be cleaned up.

Joe asked if we can see the executive summary of the report. **Denice will get it for us.**

**New Business**

Mary Cummings from the Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation talked about the pros and cons of rain barrel and rain garden projects. There are difficulties with money commitments, storage and transportation issues, and home owner association regulations. Mary insisted that education of the public is the key to any successful program. If we demonstrate making rain barrels, with the assistance of scouts and rangers, at West Deptford Day, Denice suggested we utilize them at Field of Dreams with signs indicating that the barrels produce the irrigation needed for planted flowers.

Carl asked what happened with the proposed sapling distribution. Our paperwork requesting a share of the distribution wasn't signed and submitted on time.

West Deptford Day Perhaps we can display a mini rain garden. We should also consider constructing wind chimes from recycled materials. Have a sample rain barrel on display; start a sign-up list of people interested in rain barrels for their own properties. We should ask the township for a 10 X 10 tent for that day. Note of interest: there is a butterfly house at the Redbank Battlefield.

Chair Report: West Deptford Day: see above information

Earth Day: volunteers are in place.

Annual Report: Joe reached out to Dave Sileo for a copy of his presentation to the CAP group; got no response. **Joe will make another attempt to get the information.**

School Lift Station: Joe said there is nothing alarming in the site plan or application. If the State has an issue with the plans, it will respond to the township and/or school board.

Sunoco Wetlands Application: The application was heard by the Planning Board but not pushed forward because there are numerous questions. The Township should request a concrete liner of the containment area. There was lengthy and extensive discussion of Sunoco's plans for this site.

**Financial Report:** no report.

**For the Good of the Order**

Ed asked that we invite the Planning and Zoning Boards to attend the ANJEC site plan reading workshop.

**Ed will speak with ANJEC about our hosting the annual workshop next spring.**

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

**Adjourn**

Ed moved and Carl seconded that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.