

## DENNIS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2015.

Regularly scheduled meeting held at 5:30 p.m. at Dennis Township Municipal Building.

Vice-Chairman Rebmann led the flag salute to open the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Penrose, Mr. McManus, and Ms. Leatherwood were absent due to employment-related scheduling conflicts.

The committee voted to approve the minutes of the September meeting and Mr. Rebmann will contact the webmaster to have those minutes posted to the township website for public consumption.

Mr. Rebmann asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Ocean View resident Eileen Turner who recently passed away, a long-time member of previous environmental commissions.

Several members of the commission spoke about Ms. Turner, noting that the family has asked that memorials in her name be made in the form of donations to New Jersey Nature, an Eldora based wildlife rehab center operated by Dennis Township resident Steve Serwatka.

Mr. DiCicco asked the commission to come up with a way to honor Ms. Turner's lifelong commitment to protecting the environment. Mr. Rebmann will list the request as an agenda item for November's meeting.

Next on the agenda was guest Scott Sullivan, new AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador. He described his initial focus on the county's water supply issues. The commission was able to offer the Susquehanna University graduate a number of ideas and sources on the subject.

Mr. Rosenthal suggested reading John Gibson's valuable study. Sue Slotterback mentioned Carl Behrens, operator of Cape May's desalination plant as an excellent resource.

Mr. Caster asked if he was interested in salt water effects on underground aquifers or reclaiming salt water. When Mr. Sullivan explained that, being new in his assignment, he was meeting with DEP to go into details of what he'd be doing, Mr. Rebmann asked what the commission could do to help in his efforts. Mr. Sullivan mentioned activities like tree plantings and clean-ups.

Mr. Rebmann suggested maintaining contact and email addresses were exchanged.

Next, Ms. Slotterback talked about her meeting with Mr. McManus at the municipal garden to identify plants for the purpose of having signage created for public information. She indicated that there were at least a dozen. Mr. Rebmann listed the subject for November's agenda to discuss costs and vendors.

Mr. Rebmann asked about getting some before and after photographs for the museum as well as a future display at the municipal building lobby. Ms. Slotterback indicated that she may have some "before" photos. Mr. Rebmann has taken a number of "work in progress" photos since the commission began its restoration effort.

The next item was the community forestry plan, recently returned by DEP for modifications. The subcommittee that originally crafted the plan will meet to go over what is needed.

Mr. Rosenthal suggested contacting Public Works to get a copy of its storm preparation report to add to the plan. Ms. George added that Vernon Champion, public works supervisor, should be asked to meet with the subcommittee to get his input. The commission praised the department for its work in this area.

Mr. DiCicco updated the commission on conditions at Ludlam Pond Dam after a citizen reported a water level drop of three feet. Mr. DiCicco and Township Engineer Jack Gibson examined the site and, with assistance from Senator Van Drew's office, DEP investigated the problem. DEP has jurisdiction over the dam itself while DOT has jurisdiction over the bridge/road across the dam. Mr. DiCicco also thanked Ms. George for insights she shared, having had long experience with dams on her property.

Thanks to quick action by all parties, the dam has been at least temporarily repaired and water level is back to normal.

Mr. Rebmann asked about the condition of other dams in the township and asked how often dams are inspected. He indicated that he would follow up to get a report from pertinent sources to share at the November meeting.

Mr. DiCicco also told the commission that fellow committee member Don Tozer was contacted by local campground owners, asking about possible joint activities with the commission. While nothing specific was mentioned, the commission welcomed the overture.

Mr. Rebmann will invite Mr. Tozer to the November meeting, adding that representatives from the campgrounds would be welcomed as well.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.