

DENNIS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: March 23, 2016.

Meeting held at 5:30 p.m. at the municipal building.

Chairman Bob Penrose led the flag salute to open the meeting.

Ms Slotterback was absent.

The committee voted to approve the minutes of the February meeting (Penrose and George abstaining) and Mr. Rebmann will contact the webmaster to have those minutes posted to the township website for public consumption.

Ms. George reported that she'll pick up tree seedlings at Woodbine on April 8. She has not been told what types of trees or how many. Ms. George will create a poster promoting the seedling giveaway and the PTA Community Day event as well as other distribution dates/sites. Mr. Rebmann will develop and send out press material for FB, website, and media.

Seedlings will be distributed as follows: Saturday, April 9 from 10am-3pm at the Academy Road School (Dennisville); Saturday, April 16 from 9am-1pm at the Old School House Museum (Dennisville); and Opening Day at the Recreation Center from 10am-3:30pm. Ms. George has okay from Rec Director Kim Herron for the latter.

Ms. Leatherwood added that she will be demonstrating how to plant and care for trees for grades 7-8 prior to the giveaways.

Ms. George will provide a table and canopy for the event. Mr. Rebmann will supply folding chairs from the museum.

Ms. Salimbene presented posters created by Lisa Roselli's 4th grade art class. The commission reviewed the posters and selected the following winners: Paige Herron (1st); Vanessa Fox (2nd); Katrina Pease (3rd); Joe Jacquelin (Honorable Mention). Choices were based on art work and message.

Theme for the poster contest was "Solutions to Water Pollution".

Mr. Rebmann will send Ms. Roselli a thank you for participating. Posters will be displayed in the lobby case at the municipal building.

Mr. Rebmann reposted that he has submitted a grant application to ANJEC for \$1500 with monies to be used to purchase signs identifying plants at the municipal garden along with similar signage and a bench at the planned Eileen Turner Memorial. The commission should hear about the grant in May.

Mr. McManus noted that he has identified about 20 plant types at the municipal garden. He showed samples of signs for commissioners to review. Mr. Rebmann has researched costs with several vendors and will pursue the matter of possible purchase once word is received on the grant application.

Mr. McManus also said that it will soon be time to prepare the garden with weeding and mulching. Mr. Rebmann will contact Public Works regarding the latter.

Bluebird boxes are sprouting up in various locations in Dennis Township. Mr. Rebmann reported that a box has been installed in the open area next to the museum, following Gail Fisher's presentation at the last meeting. He added that he'll be requesting some money to purchase a number of plants for the area. Mr. Hoff and Mr. Rosenthal assisted Ms. Fisher to erect four bluebird boxes at the Hagen Road School. Trained volunteers will monitor the boxes, watching carefully for intrusive sparrows.

Mr. Castor reported that he and Mr. Rosenthal recently attended a session of ANJEC's "Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions". He said that the importance of having an active relationship with the municipal Land Use Board as stressed, especially during the preliminary approval (work session) process.

Mr. Rebmann, the commission's current crossover to Land Use, noted that the board has not experienced much activity recently and on those applications for variances that have come before Land Use, environmental issues have been addressed, particularly regarding cutting trees, types of landscaping used, parking lot surface materials.

Mr. Castor added that he gathered a lot of material at the session and he'll put together a report to share with the commission at a future meeting.

Discussion followed about the township's Environmental Resources Inventory. A copy is available in the commission's office and is posted on line. The current ERI is ten years old. The commission will look into possible grant money to update the inventory.

Opening the meeting to the public, Justin Turner thanked the commission for working on the Eileen Turner Memorial and offered his family's assistance to move the project to fruition.

He added a plug for the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine (another cause supported by Eileen Turner). MMSC is the only facility of its kind in New Jersey to handle the types of animals it is called to help with.

Ms. Salimbene informed the commission that Pete Bosak from the Mosquito Control Commission will appear before the township committee at its April 19 meeting to talk about the zika virus. The commission will promote his appearance on its web and Facebook pages.

During member comments, Mr. Castor told the commission that the end of Beaver Dam Road is filled with litter. He mentioned that a dead dog had been found there and the township's Animal Control officer was notified.

Mr. Castor suggested a litter clean-up at that location. Mr. Rebmann will list that item for discussion/possible action on the April agenda.

There being no other business, Mr. Penrose closed the meeting.