



June 2, 2020 Dennis Township Environmental Commission Meeting MINUTES

This DTEC ZOOM meeting was hosted by Dennis Township Committee member Scott Turner.

Present at the meeting in addition to Scott Turner were: Justin Turner (Vice-Chairman), James Herlihy, Ray Rebmann, Lisa Salimbene, and Sue Slotterback (Members). No members of the public were present.

Presiding in Mr. Penrose absence, Justin Turner read several pieces of correspondence. The first was from the Pinelands Commission to Tony Monzo, attorney for a township property owner on Fidler Road. It detailed Pinelands Commission concerns about the lack of documentation for a second dwelling (garage) built on the property in the early 1980's had received approval from the township. Absent that documentation, the commission indicated it would not take any action on an application for the Forest Stewardship Program.

Mr. Rebmann asked if the property owner cited in the Monzo letter would be required to appear before the land use board to resolve the prior approval question. Mr. Turner indicated that this might be the case if the work was done without a required approval. However, as the matter suggests a pre-existing, non-conforming use, the work in question might have been okay at the time.

The second correspondence, also from Pinelands, addressed to Township Clerk Jackie Justice, concerned construction application for the recreation facility. Several members asked if the letter referred to ongoing work at the Chestnut Street facility in Belleplain.

The letter indicated that the application had been approved, even though, as Mr. Turner noted, the commission letter further indicated that the facility had originally been built without application to Pinelands

The third correspondence was from DuBois Associates, regarding a CAFRA application for Dennis LLC. It is a legal notification from DEP soliciting public comment during a 30 day period ending June 30, 2020. Wawa is applying to build on a property on Route 47, across from the current Dennisville Wawa.

Members asked if this Wawa included gas pumps. In the absence of chairman Mr. Penrose who is also the commission's crossover to the Land Use Board, no one was in a position to offer any specific information on the matter. The commission would not be offering any official comment. Individual members are welcome to offer their own comments.

However, Justin Turner suggested that the matter was something the commission should "keep an eye on" as the situation unfolds and more information becomes available.

In other business, Mr. Turner will reissue the minutes from the March meeting so that members can review and vote on at the July meeting. Minutes from the May meeting were approved with one correction offered by Mr. Turner.

Justin Turner updated members on the garden at the municipal complex. The commission held a successful work "party" at the garden during which all the mulch had been removed from the parking lot and placed appropriately. There was some discussion about organizing plant identifications but this was tabled pending the return of Chairman Penrose.

Ms. Slotterback provided contact and website information for the Surfrider Foundation. This is regarding the commission's consideration of a plastic balloon ordinance, discussed later under "New Business".

Justin Turner presented a draft for a proposed balloon ordinance, calling it an "attainable goal". Ms Salimbene agreed that it was a "good start". Members agreed that a balloon ban release ordinance would also provide information on the community's reaction or "pushback" both pro and con.

As with any such measure, enforcement is a major consideration and given the township's limited code enforcement capabilities, members agreed the code enforcement officer would not likely have time to monitor compliance. Members discussed possible commission involvement in this area, particularly with a possible "work in lieu of fine" for those found in violation.

Mr. Turner indicated that members should read the draft and submit suggestions so he can compose a draft for next meeting to send to township committee for review.

There being no public comment or any other new business, Mr. Turner moved to adjourn.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 7. Members and the public will be notified if this meeting will be conducted via Zoom or at the municipal building.

