



December 1 2020 DTEC Meeting MINUTES

DTEC ZOOM meeting, hosted by Dennis Township Committee Committee.

Present at the meeting Bob Penrose (Chairman), Justin Turner (Vice-Chairman), James Herlihy, Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, and Sue Slotterback (Members). Also attending were Jessica Bishop (Dennis Township Administrator/Chief Financial Officer) and Loretta Pregartner (Americorp NJ Watershed Ambassador).

Members voted to approve the minutes of the November meeting.

Ms. Pregartner presented on the watershed ambassadorship program and what she plans to do during her time in the position. The program covers Cape May County and does much of its work in partnerships with other organizations.

These include clean-ups and Ms. Pregartner was in the process of selecting several sites in the county. She mentioned Higbee's and Sunset Beach in Lower Township and welcomed input from members regarding prospective sites in Dennis Township. Among the suggestions for clean-up were Jake's Landing and Gravel Hole Road.

She also discussed environmental stewardship training, specifically stream assessment. Volunteers would learn to assess water quality of freshwater streams. She indicated that she hoped to do "as many as possible through July 2021", at which time she will rotate out in favor of a new ambassador.

Mr. Penrose asked if she'd set up any assessments yet and was answered in the negative, but several are being considered, none in Dennis Township. She hopes to do the first assessments in March 2021.

Responding to a member's question, Ms. Pregartner indicated the stream can be located on private property assuming owner permission is granted for an assessment.

Mr. Penrose expressed an interest in participating as a volunteer. Ms. Pregartner noted that participants could eventually qualify for certification through "Stream School" in September/October (2021). She offered to help anyone interested find out more.

Mr. Turner sent Ms. Pregartner a map showing the two clean-up site prospects earlier described. She planned to visit the sites that week. She will prepare a sign up sheet for volunteers once a site is selected. Ms. Slotterback will also post the clean-up dates on Face Book.

Mr. Penrose next advised that there was no correspondence. However, there was some activity with the Land Use Board. Pierson's application for renewal of a mining permit for an existing gravel pit was postponed. Mr. Penrose said the applicant would usually restore the disturbed area once mining operations permanently cease. Mr. Rebmann asked if the township could request any sort of bonding to guarantee compliance.

There is no follow up checking by code enforcement or the township[engineer, however, Mr. Turner noted that some boards require "performance bonds" with funds pending release that they do what they say they'll do.

Mr. Penrose added that some of these (mining) permits are open-ended and go on for years. If there's a bankruptcy, there is no one left to clean up. He indicated he'd look into the question.

Moving on to other business concerning the municipal garden, Mr. Penrose indicated that township committeeman Scott Turner suggested that the township public works might be able to "scrape" the present site allowing the commission to restart the garden. Justin Turner suggested a raised bed approach to any new garden.

Members agreed that weeding was needed on the present garden. Mr. Herlihy offered some plants for planting along the existing path. He added that he'd done a garden at the school without using chemicals. Weed suppression, he agreed, is a problem, especially with the unseasonably warm weather and heavier than normal rainfall.

Mr. Turner discussed work on the plastics ban ordinance, pointing out that any legislation at the local level has been superseded by the recent legislation at the state level. He suggested

keeping an eye on how that is implemented. As the state develops its regulations, the commission's goal might be to shift to education/information rather than regulation/enforcement.

Ms. Pregartner noted that she was Recycling Coordinator in Cumberland County asked if the commission had developed a plan for reaching out to township residents and businesses to prepare them for the eventual implementation of the new law. She offered her assistance if and when the commission was ready to take such a step.

Mr. Penrose added that the commission should order a renewed supply of reusable bags, since the last of the current supply had been given out at National Night Out. A member suggested printing a set of guidelines in brief on the bags. The matter will be further looked into in the coming year.

No date was set for the Reorganization meeting in January. Ms. Bishop said she would look into the term dates for current members to see whose term is up at the end of the current year.

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