



DTEC Meeting MINUTES

DTEC ZOOM meeting, March 2, 2021

Present at the meeting Bob Penrose (Chairman), Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, and Sue Slotterback, and Lisa Salimbene (Members). Also attending were Jessica Bishop (Dennis Township Administrator/Chief Financial Officer) and Donna Gurdgiel from South Seaville..

Members voted to approve the minutes of the February meeting.

Scheduled guest speaker Lynn Crumbock was rescheduled to join the April meeting. Ms. Salimbene will update her about the rescheduling.

Mr. Penrose reviewed recent Land Use Board activity. This included Walter application to convert an existing garage to a one chair hair salon. That was approved with the condition that the approval was non-transferrable in the event of a change in ownership of the property. Also, the McKaig application on Academy Road to create lots via clustering was also approved with deed restrictions for the wetlands on the property which are extensive according to Mr. Penrose.

Mr. Penrose advised members that Wawa has filed application (extensive documents available on the website) to construct a store/gas station on a current "junk yard" Route 47 (across the road from present Wawa) in Dennisville. Documents filed by the applicant's project engineer (Dynamic Engineering) include: water quality analysis, storm water maintenance, traffic study, drainage, and Environmental Impact Study.

From what he'd been able to read thus far, there would be "no impact upon wildlife" according to the study. Ms. Slotterback pointed out that turtle may be laying eggs in the area. Mr. Penrose added that the junk yard still operates and will do so after (if) the project is approved. The application calls for using 2-4 acres of a 12-acre site. Other questions raised include drainage and the engineering study indicates that it is not a paved site and there will be less impervious coverage.

Storm water will have to be recharged and discharged to existing sites in the wetlands. Ms. Slotterback expressed a concern that anything from the parking lot would flow into the wetlands. Mr. Rebmann raised a question about septic. There are septic issues with the existing Wawa across the road.

There has been no discussion about what to do with the current Wawa building if the project is approved.

Next agenda item touched on the annual Forestry report which Mr. Rebmann had submitted to DEP. Some figures have been added so a modified report is being submitted.

Members next talked about the municipal complex garden. Mr. Penrose and Ms. Salimbene had recently done some work on site. Members talked about the need to maintain consistent weeding practices to alleviate a problem with unwanted vegetation overgrowing desirable plantings.

Mr. Penrose suggested that maintaining a path will help and a wooden walkway through the center will be considered between garden plots to provide access. This along with polyethylene sheeting should help control weeds.

Ms. Slotterback cautioned about use of the term "weeds", noting that such vegetation often provides habitat and/or food for assorted birds, butterflies, and insects. She advised educating the public about the value of native grasses and herbs critical to host butterflies and moths.

Ms. Salimbene suggested marking the plants on site to show which will be kept and which won't. Milkweed and anything like that, beneficial vegetation, will be marked.

Mr. Penrose added that a lot of "good" plants are in the path. These will have to be relocated.

Members agreed to arrange for a work party at the garden in the near future in order to do some of the things talked about tonight.

Under new business, Ms. Salimbene talked about the 3rd grade Earth Day project at the local public school, the Litter Bug Project. She advised that commission members could volunteer as judges of a craft contest for 55-60 students. They'll be using recyclable materials to create real or fictional insects and write about it. The work will be displayed at the school.

There will be three prizes awarded along with materials donated by the MUA for all participants.

Ms. Salimbene added that the event offers good “PR” for the commission.

Ms Slotterback added that the educational value is significant and suggested the school, or perhaps the commission, arrange a tour of the MUA facility.

The amount of trash is an “eye opener”.

Mr. Rosenthal suggested waiting until the COVID restrictions are eased up to contemplate such a bus trip.

In the public segment, South Seaville resident Donna Gurdgiel asked for guidance regarding the growing problem of litter along Main Street in that area. A walker, she noted the amount of empty small liquor bottles along the roadside, particularly in places that are not residential.

“I pick up trash and the next day it’s bad again.” She noted.

Diapers, Wawa bags and cups, and one-ounce liquor bottles appear to be the most common litter.

Ms Salimbene suggested “going to the source” to ask those businesses that sell the items described to ask customers to take more care with their trash.

Mr. Penrose suggested “doing a clean-up on Main Street.

It could actually be an educational activity, Ms. Slotterback added, noting the annual Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps data collection program which itemizes types of litter picked up.

Members will discuss possible options at a future meeting including asking businesses to post a sign advising their customers to be more considerate with their trash. This could be included in an anti-litter campaign at the school, Ms. Salimbene offered.

There being no other business, Mr. Penrose thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

