



May 1 2021 DTEC Meeting MINUTES

DTEC ZOOM meeting, hosted by Scott Turner, Dennis Township Committeeman.

Present at the meeting Bob Penrose (Chairman), Justin Turner (Vice-Chairman), James Herlihy, Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, and Sue Slotterback (Members).

Members voted to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

Guest speaker was Ralph Cooper, speaking on behalf of the Green Team (Upper Township). Mr. Cooper described the functions and activities of the Green Team, noting that Dennis Township had enrolled in the program in 2009 but has not established an actual Green Team to date. He explained that in many cases, a municipality's Green Team "piggybacks" on the municipality's environmental commission.

Describing activities, he noted that Green Team is involved with ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) and the Sustainable Jersey program. He added that many of the activities are similar to those covered under the DEP forestry plan (in which Dennis Township participates) and the required annual reports use much of the same data.

When asked about other activities, Mr. Cooper suggested checking the website as there are about 150 potential actions. He cited as an example developing a pamphlet for distribution at a community event such as Earth Day.

Active participation also gives community members a chance to show what you're doing and see what other communities are doing. The Green Team also acts in an advisory capacity to the municipal government on environmental issues.

Mr. Penrose asked if this was mostly a “networking” activity and Mr. Cooper suggested that corroboration of efforts was closer to the mark, adding that membership increases opportunities for grants.

Ms. Slotterback recalled the case of a teacher in Cape May who worked via Green Team and Sustainable Schools to develop and promote green projects at that community’s public school.

Mr. Turner asked if Green Team is established by ordinance and was told it was handled by resolution by the governing body. Meeting minutes are provided to committee and the Green Team names a liaison to the governing body but acts strictly in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Cooper concluded by suggesting that there are many “collaborative possibilities” between Dennis and Upper Townships should Dennis proceed.

In other business, Mr. Penrose informed members about the recent Land Use Board meeting at which applicant Wawa gave testimony about a proposed store with gas station on Route 47 (across from current store) in Dennisville.

He noted that Wawa does not propose doing stormwater management at the site and that the applicant is “improving” conditions at that location He added that DEP has already issued an approval. The existing junkyard will continue to operate.

Department of Transportation has not yet approved the application. DOT is concerned about soil contamination. However, the applicant’s assessment indicates that the area of property it will lease has no contaminants.

There was little public comment regarding this application, Mr. Penrose added and that portion of the hearing was closed, pending any changes to the existing application. A vote can be taken at this point. However, in answer to a question about possible impact from the DOT report not yet released, Mr. Penrose indicated that was a “possibility”.

In other business, Mr. Penrose said that he, Mr. Herlihy, and Ms. Slotterback attended the “garden party” at the community garden. Mr. Herlihy worked on the paths while the others cleaned up brush at the garden.

Mowing is planned for a future date.

There was discussion about installing wooden walkways and about types of material. Treated wood is costlier. Recycled pallets would satisfy but only temporarily.

Mr. Turner noted that he will have wood chips available at the end of the summer for use on the trails.

Mr. Penrose next described the local school third grade "Critter Art" which he judged along with Lynn Crumbock from the Cape May County MUA. Twenty students participated. The MUA donated a bench to the school.

Next discussed was National Night Out. The commission will participate. Mr. Penrose asked if the commission could distribute recycling bags to visitors. Mr. Turner suggested contacting Jackie Justice in the Municipal Clerk's office to ask about previous cost and whether the commission has sufficient funds in its budget to make a purchase.

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3.

Members were asked to come up with some ideas for "promotional giveaways".

Mr. Rebmann indicated that he'd applied for a grant of \$1500 from ANJEC to help defray costs of improvements to the municipal garden but had not heard anything as of the meeting date.

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

