



Dennis Township Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes May 4, 2022

DTEC monthly ZOOM meeting, hosted by Dennis Township Committeeman Scott Turner (Assist by DTEC member Brad Rosenthal).

Present at the meeting were: Bob Penrose (Chairman), Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, and Justin Turner (Vice-Chairman). Jim Herlihy, Sue Slotterback, and Lisa Salimbene (Members) were absent

Vote on approving the February minutes was deferred due to lack of sufficient eligible voting members. However, March meeting minutes were approved.

There were no guest speakers this month. Correspondence from the state Turnpike Authority regarding work at the Ocean View Service Area. Specifically, the project calls for moving 918 feet of sanitary sewer line which conveys waste to the MUA 7 Mile treatment facility. Mr. Penrose noted that the authority is creating a new acceleration land for the on ramp.

Several new applications have come to the Land Use Board. Chuck and Mark DeVaul from Ocean View want to subdivide a 19.68 acre lot into lots sizes 13.56 and 6.12 acres. A house is intended for the larger lot. The property has ponds, wetlands (both proposed lots). Mr. Penrose indicated that the matter was postponed in order to obtain testimony from an engineering expert.

Next application is from Tom Gleeson of South Seaville. Gleeson wants to build a swimming pool at an existing nonconforming structure. The application was approved.

Sea Grove Camping Resort of Ocean View asked permission to demolish a greenhouse and build a 2500 square foot storage building (no plumbing). That application was also approved.

The ongoing Pierson application for a cement plant on Ocean View Road, seeking use variances and a waiver from Stormwater Management Plan had been deemed incomplete at a previous work session and was rescheduled for May 5 work session of the Land Use Board.

Members moved on to discuss the results of the April 30 tree seedling giveaway at the municipal garden in Dennisville. About half the 150 seedlings were distributed to attending members of the public. The Commission thanks Dennisville resident Bill Lathers who donated a number of Japanese maples to the effort.

The commission agreed to put in for a similar number of seedlings next year.

Updating the situation at the municipal garden, the Senior Center is looking for a place to have picnics and has inquired about utilizing the garden. Ms. Bishop reported on a grant being developed by the township through AARP to do work at the site to make its use more feasible for the seniors, particularly regarding benches and pathways. The grant will also pay for picnic tables for public use while enjoying the garden.

Mr. Penrose had previously noted that raised beds would alleviate weeding issues and would help delineate paths for wheel chair accessibility.

During the seedling giveaway, members worked at the garden weeding and clearing away rocks around the pond in area in order to replace the liner. Mr. Herlihy, working on the woodland path, will provide a list of the plants and trees to be marked. Mr. Rebmann will order labels with each named plant to be placed along the path.

Members also discussed the implementation of the new plastic bag law in New Jersey. Mr. Penrose noted that the local Acme had already started, Members agreed the law will generate some resistance but educational efforts to wean the public away from their use will eventually work.

New Jersey Green Communities Program has \$500,000 to be distributed over the next three years to help local municipalities purchase reusable bags.

Final agenda item considered the future place of residence for the Salem oak seedling. Mr. Turner had obtained a seedling of the historic tree and at present is caring for it until it can be planted, Discussion centered around the municipal building or public school as possible sites while Mr. Rebmann suggested the museum...since the tree has "historical significance". Meanwhile, the Salem oak enjoys our vice-chairman's TLC.

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

