



Dennis Township Environmental Commission April 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting hosted by Dennis Township Committee member Scott Turner.

Present at the meeting in addition to Scott Turner were: Bob Penrose (Chairman), Justin Turner, Ray Rebmann, Brad Rosenthal, Sue Slotterback, Jum Herlihy and Lisa Salimbene were absent.

Following roll call, February meeting minutes were approved. Lacking a quorum in March, there was no meeting.

There was no guest speaker.

Regarding the Connors application,

Mr. Rebmann asked how large the proposed pond would be. While no one was able to answer for certain, an acre was suggested as the applicant was “talking canoeing”. Other members indicated that the pond would not be “natural” and a liner might be needed.

When asked if the applicant would be required to file an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), Mr. Penrose said that it “hadn’t come up yet”.

Justin Turner observed that the “theme” of the project is “wilderness lodging” suggesting a concept that is more natural as opposed to “lodge hotel”.

Parking area and material to be used to create same would also be issues of concern. The property is located in the Pinelands Preserve but would not require approval from the Pinelands Commission.

Other applications heard, and approved by Land Use include Ryan Development's request for preliminary and final site plan, variances and waivers to build five unit structure housing contractor workshops, offices and parking on Route 83 in Clermont.

And Peter Pittaluga's minor subdivision application for property on Dennisville Road (across from Recreation Center) was also approved. That project creates three conforming lots from a 46.75-acre parcel.

Those interested in reviewing documents from these applications are directed to the Township website, under Consolidated Land Use Board.

Other commission activity discussed concerned ongoing work at the municipal garden at Dennisville. The existing vegetation had been largely removed and new concrete had been poured by an outside contractor. Township Public Works will soon be building the "raised beds" and Mr. Penrose advised members to develop their wish lists for plants to be included. Mr. Rebmann reminded members of the \$1500 grant earmarked for the garden.

Dimensions of the beds will be obtained for the purpose of determining appropriate plantings. Ms. Slotterback will help with garden design.

In other business, there will be no tree giveaway this year. However, Justin Turner suggested as a back-up, a wildflower seed packet giveaway (for pollinator gardens). Mr. Rebmann volunteered use of the museum as a giveaway venue should that prospect be pursued.

The township has filed for gypsy moth spraying this year and activity on that issue should begin shortly.

Mr. Penrose mentioned an interest in bringing speakers to join commission meetings and Mickey Riggin, certified forester, was mentioned, in conjunction with the township's "Community Forest Plan" and Mr. Rebmann's beginning stages work (in conjunction with the museum) to update the township's history of "significant trees".

Mr. Turner advised members that Earth Day is April 22 and county-sponsored events are scheduled for the park in Cape May Court House from 10am-3pm.

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