



Dennis Township Environmental Commission June 6, 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, and Sue Slotterback.

Following roll call, May meeting minutes were approved.
There was no guest speaker.

Mr. Penrose reported on three letters from Pinelands Commission, notifying the township about local activities involving that body.

The first concerned Holly Lake Shore Campground Condominium Association's application to build a 256 square foot pavilion.

The second dealt with a proposed addition to an existing single dwelling by the estate of Warren North (Sue Shirk, Executrix). A long running matter, the commission indicated that the property owner had several "options" to resolve outstanding issues, particularly the lot size requirement. Pinelands listed three choices in its letter (on file with the township). The commission determined that "no further development can take place" on the property until issues are resolved.

The third letter concerned Houser Engineering's April 6 letter about client Dennis 47 Developers' DEP application for a treatment works approval (TWA) for the recently court-approved Wawa in Dennisville. The letter served to notify the township of the developer's intention to apply for this approval.

Meanwhile the Land Use Board kept busy hearing the ongoing application of Pierson Pleasantville seeking to add a ready-mix concrete plant to its existing gravel pit. The application has been before the board for almost a year and Mr. Penrose suggested that, with both the applicant and opponents bringing witnesses, it may continue for at least one more session. A second application, James and Sandra Ciardelli's, seeking a variance to construct a pole barn in the front yard on its Little Mill Road property, was approved.

Dennis 47 Developers returned to Land Use with an amended site plan for the Wawa convenience store and fueling facility. The change involved reducing the number of fueling stations from eight to five. In addition to a smaller canopy, the applicant proposed moving its building forward to, Mr. Penrose observed, create long truck and trailer space in back. In response to Mr. Rebmann's question, Penrose replied that Wawa is not asking to sell diesel at the site.

All of the above applications are available for public scrutiny at the township website, under Consolidated Land Use Board.

The municipal complex garden is now "finished". Plant boxes have been installed along with plants to fill them. Mr. Rebmann asked about re-installing the small garden pond and Mr. Penrose observed that there was room. There was some discussion about plant markers for the walking path through the woods beside the garden.

Mr. Turner (Justin) next mentioned seed packets for distribution at National Night Out (August) and members agreed to look into purchasing a marker stamp to identify DTEC as the body giving them out.

Last on the agenda was the tree inventory. Mr. Rebmann had written and distributed to members a history of previous surveys conducted in the county.

Mr. Rebmann also handed out a one page explanation for the community about the survey. He elaborated a possible process for conducting it, starting with compiling a record of past survey research which he has mostly finished doing.

Noting that past efforts seemed to focus on trees on public lands or along roadsides, he expressed hope that this time, more private homes could be surveyed and proposed sending the one page flyer to residents along with August's annual property tax bills. The flyer will include instructions for residents wishing to participate.

Once the information is collected, it will be collated and attached to the history and posted to the township website,

Mr. Turner (Scott) advised including language informing the public that there were no legal restrictions on property (tree) management attached to participation in the project. Rebmann will edit the flyer to reflect this addition.

Ms. Slotterback suggested coming up with a catchy theme name while Mr. Penrose thought it might make a suitable theme for the commission for National Night Out.

Mr. Turner (Justin) suggested involving the school as a way of getting the word out, while Ms Slotterback will post the flyer on the commission's Facebook page.

Rebmann will forward the document to Committeeman Turner, after making edits, for consideration by the Township Committee.

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