
Minutes
March 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Diane Amico and the public notice was read. Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Lisa Fleming, Charles Valentine, John Pedersen, Brad Giordano, Christine Brown, and guests Bryan Wallace and Greg Wallace.

There has been no official notice that member appointments have been completed and are up to date. Diane has reached out to Keith Petrosky and will follow up.

A motion for approval of Minutes from the February 8, 2016 meeting was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Brad Giordano. All were in favor.

Greg Wallace is an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop #36 who has taken on the project of repairing the footbridge at Maurice River Natural Area. Bryan Wallace described the project and the progress made. The Vineland Municipal Electric Utility has donate 2 45-foot poles. They are working with NJ Forest Fire Service to clear the dirt road and bring the poles back to the site (approximately 1000'-1500' from Union Rd). The Environmental Commission has a \$400 purchase order with Universal Supply for materials he can use. The project must be completed before the end of April when Greg turns 18. The date is to be determined. Some construction details will be resolved with John Pedersen. They are leaving the old poles in place, as pulling them out would cause too much disturbance of the creek-bed. They will try to make one step to get on the bridge, to deter ATV use.

The City is still on a temporary budget so there are no amounts entered into any line items. Diane received the invoice for dues to NJ Shade Tree Federation. A motion to pay this invoice was made by Charlie Valentine and seconded by John Pedersen. All were in favor.

Diane has stepped down as a volunteer member and will be assuming the position of City liaison and Secretary. Lisa Fleming was nominated for Chairperson, and she accepted. A motion to appoint Lisa as Chairperson was made by John Casadia and seconded by Charlie Valentine. All were in favor.

Site Plan reviews: Diane was informed by the Planning Office that the LIDL Supermarket applicant has negotiated a \$35,000 payment-in-lieu-of planting of trees, which would go directly into the tree fund. Currently there is opposition to the project, so we will not know for sure the outcome until after the official Planning Board approval is received.

A self-storage business on Garden Road is clearing back to the stream but is staying within the buffers and making a drainage basin to stop stormwater.

There is another application for a Charter School on S. Lincoln Ave, and the plan was made available for anyone who wants to look at it at the end of the meeting.

Volunteer Projects will be kept on the agenda as a separate item, but will now become a quarterly/seasonal project, with other projects in between as needed.

Willow Oak: Diane spoke to Dale Elbeuf who said he has not forgotten about the repairs we requested to the split rail fence and parking lot gravel grading. It was noted that additional sections of split rail fence are needed on the sides to prevent ATVs from entering. The grass is still not cut and John Casadia will contact Public Works. Brad still has the signs he had made for the entrances; John Casadia will get them from him and get them put up. Security issues were discussed. It was suggested we look into getting a bright LED light for the parking lot that is on a light-sensor for night, not a motion sensor. The police need to check the

parking lot, as they do for other City-owned parks. John Pedersen said there is no regular Public Works maintenance.

Arbor Day - Sue Fenili provided a status update which said that 9 schools have replied, the envelopes are stuffed and ready to deliver, Ferrucci's and Public Works have been notified, and the planned date for delivery is April 27th.

Sue emailed that she also discussed again with the Mayor the litter problems in Vineland and the photos provided by John Pedersen. The photos were passed around and discussed.

Giampietro Park raingarden: On March 11th, Diane met with Tiara Campbell and Dale Elbeuf to discuss the goals of the raingarden and the restrictions placed on the project by Public Works that were in conflict with the goals. Dale agreed to allow the project to proceed as originally planned, in wetland areas where ponding occurs. There is still a 4' height limit due to security concerns. The project is scheduled for April 2, with a rainedate of April 9. Diane asked members to reach out to look for volunteers and also for plant donations. Possible plant species were discussed. Tiara has already received commitments for some plants to be donated from local nurseries that she contacted via letter. Also needed is topsoil, cardboard and/or newspaper, and mulch. There is a trailer with tools owned by the City that may be available. This needs to be looked into further. Brad may have some topsoil.

Old Business Diane received a call from a resident that was not happy about the removal of a bluebird house from Romano Park. The resident has since installed his own birdhouse.

John Pedersen attended the Pinelands Short Course at Stockton.

The South Jersey Land and Water Trust has purchased 811 acres along the Menantico Creek. Diane will get more information.

New Business: John Pedersen would like to get a load of mulch for street trees and has a quote from SJ Landscape Supply for enough for about 400 trees. A motion was made by Charles Valentine to purchase 13 yards of mulch in the amount of \$357.50, seconded by John Casadia. All were in favor.

Tree Committee Sue Fenili, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen

Tree Maintenance Contracts: There is still an open purchase order with Asplundh for stump removal. John Pedersen will look at the spreadsheets provided by Sue and by VMEU and update for a current list still to be removed. We have enough left for about one day's work.

The trees on S. Myrtle Street need pruning from Landis to Chestnut.

A motion for adjournment was made by John Casadia and seconded by Charlie Valentine. All were in favor.