

April 26, 2021 Environmental Commission Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Duerr, Doherty, McCarthy, Stippick
MEMBERS ABSENT: Brandt, Mounier, Tinney
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Cavone, Link
LIAISONS ABSENT: Doyle, Flaim
GUESTS: R. Duerr, B. Halpern, and A. Wheeler.

The April 26, 2021 meeting of the Township of Franklin Environmental Commission was called to order by Mr. Stippick at 7:44 pm as a virtual meeting on ZOOM.

I. Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Duerr, seconded by Ms. Doherty, the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting were approved.

II. Emergency Response and Management Report:

- A. There was a vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 40 and Rosemont Ave. Mr. Stippick asked for information from Lt. DeCesari, Franklin's Emergency Management Operations Officer, and was advised that there was a 100-gallon spill that has been cleaned up. There is some soil remediation needed. Mr. Stippick will ask Lt. DeCesari to provide an email report to the EC every few months on any emergency response or management that has occurred.
- B. A document pertaining to FMC was sent to Environmental Commission members. To clarify, the FMC site is a former fertilizer plant, and not a thermometer factory. The site has been remediated and is regularly monitored. It must renew its remediation/monitoring permit every two years, which is what the document pertaining to this site was for.

III. Zoning and Planning Board Applications: There were no Zoning or Planning Board applications.

IV. Old Business

A. Piney Hollow:

1. Ms. Halpern reported that she spoke to the CME engineer. The revised application was delayed two months due to an employee working on it who got Covid-19. It has just been sent to the Pinelands Commission for approval. It has also been sent to Green Acres so that the reimbursement process can be started.
It was noted that lumber costs have risen substantially and may have an impact on the boardwalk costs of the project.
2. Mr. Stippick reported that he has been at the Preserve several times doing the Bioblitz documentaion. Other people are involved now as well. So far, a total of 250 species of plants and animals (including insects) have been identified.
3. Mr. Stippick also reported that there have been a lot of visitors to the Preserve. We need to get the trail project done as soon as possible because visitors are blazing their own trails around the impassible puddles.

B. Malaga Lake Park:

1. The Unity Committee did a cleanup on Earth Day at the Park, so there is not much trash for another cleanup with our Watershed Ambassador in June. However, the group did not clean up Malaga Park Drive which is always heavily impacted with trash, so the June cleanup would still be beneficial. Mr. Stippick would like to have an iNaturalist component added to events of that day.
2. Ms. Doherty reported that the grant application for the signage at Malaga Park has been submitted.
3. A discussion ensued about making the wildflower garden at the Park into more of a demonstration

garden for native plants. Mr. Stippick suggested that we could label the plants and that community members could be encouraged to collect seeds from the garden (at the appropriate times) that they could then plant in their own gardens. The garden currently has columbine, NY aster, horsemint, coneflowers, bee balm, and other species.

4. The nature trail still needs repair/replacement of a few sign posts with the numbers on them. Mr. Stippick did install some of the trail markers he had obtained and mentioned in a previous meeting. He didn't install too many as he thought it could get confusing.
5. Mr. Stippick got some information on memorial benches, by talking to one company. Benches with a custom inlay sign or carving cost approximately \$700. Contributions from donors can run from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Red Bank has such benches so it may be helpful to contact them and other communities, for ideas and information about such a program. There are questions such as whether a concrete pad is needed or if the bench should have concrete sides, or be made of another material

C. Bird Quest: This half-day (7am – 12 pm) bird survey sponsored by the Gloucester County Nature Club will be held on May 1, with a virtual meeting to report results at 1 pm. Since there is no live meeting, lunch, or tee-shirts, there is also no registration fee this year. Anyone interested in participation (including reporting on birds at your feeders) should contact Mr. Stippick.

VIII. New Business:

- A. The second edition of *Natural Places in Gloucester County* has been published. This includes and describes 36 sites for nature walks and nature viewing in our area. The book is available for \$16.00 through the Gloucester Co. Nature Club website (gcnatureclub.org) and also at Triple Oaks Nursery.
- B. Ms. McCarthy reported that preservation of both the Schipani and Brandt properties in Franklin Township is being pursued through the South Jersey Land and Water Trust. Both are fully forested sites.

IX. Mail Review/Announcements/Conferences:

- A. **Mail:** A confirmation of our ANJEC membership was the only mail received.

X. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ms. McCarthy, seconded by Ms. Duerr, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McCarthy
EC Vice-Chair
Acting as Secretary for the Environmental Commission