



Barnes Wildlife Preserve Commission

216 Amboy Avenue, Metuchen NJ 08840

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025 in Metuchen Borough Hall at 7:00 pm

Dorothy called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

Roll call

Dorothy Giamboi, Walter Stochel, Tom Walsh, Ken Sammond. Absentees: Rob Bengivenga, Robert Spiegel, Charles Tomaro. Guests: Pete Fairclough, John Wiley

Dorothy gave a reading of the Sunshine Notice

Approval of minutes – Deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

Public Comment

- Peter Fairclough stated that trees have been cut inside the boundary of the preserve nearby and on the abandoned Kilmer rail embankment, abutting Karen Place.
- Dorothy asked what action can be taken to prevent the cutting of trees.
- Discussion was made concerning the need to create regulations/ordinances to prevent such actions from taking place, including a tree removal permit, etc.
- Further discussion was made with regard to the Gulton Site, regarding the fact that we should be notified about plantings and replantings. There was a concern related to who would notify us? The developer? The town planner?
- Walter stated that the Commission must be notified about any work, including plantings within the boundaries of the preserve. All borough clerks and administrators must be notified of their responsibility to notify us of work.

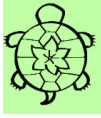
Old Business:

Search for new attorney

- Dorothy has spoken with Craig Coughlin who will get back to us regarding our needs. She will follow up and give updates at the next meeting.

Website

- Ken showed the latest iteration of the website. He hopes it can go "live" by Peter Barnes' birthday, April 26, though that may not be possible due to the need to complete



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vendor payment prior to it going live. There was discussion of the need to add Pete Barnes photo to the website as well as a photo of the new sign.

- Ken showed the proposal for the web hosting service, Dreamhost, which was recommended by Ionic.net, our web designer. Since the cost is \$142 for three years, we are able to approve this proposal without a resolution.
- He stated that we should consider potential Eagle Scout opportunities for the preserve.
- Ken also showed the GIS maps, including the land ownership and land use versions, which will be uploaded to the website.
- Ken will reach out to Debra Kmetz for wildlife photos.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer - Walter stated that there is \$83,572.36 in the account

Stewardship

- Ken stated that BSA Troop 17 – Picked up six bags of trash and two tires
- Peter stated that Metuchen Weed Warriors – planted two patches of wildflowers nearby the Kilmer rail embankment.
- Tom pointed out that SEWA has adopted Metuchen Road, South Plainfield, abutting the preserve. Picked up 45 bags of trash. He also stated that he will speak with Boy Scout Troop leaders in South Plainfield to coordinate other cleanups.

New Business

- Dorothy stated that there will be a grant revision, including the updating of financial categories and expenditures

Resignations:

- Bob Diehl-Edison, Bob Seader-County

Adjournment

Walter made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded. All said aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.