

3-21-01

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Subject: Agenda for March 21st Meeting

The next River Council meeting (3/21) has a short agenda. Rick intends to adjourn the regular meeting early so that committees can meet. Here is the proposed agenda:

Call To Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from 2/21/01 Meeting

Old Business

- Rick will provide a brief report on organizational issues

New Business

- Mary Vavra will provide an update on issues/permits presently under review

Public Portion

Adjournment (break out into committees)

Hope to see you on Wednesday. Have a good weekend.

Mary

**Great Egg Harbor River Council
Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2001**

Meeting called to order at 7:15PM by Chairperson, Rick Coe.

Roll Call by the Secretary, Belinda Irizarry

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers, Bill Christman, Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Egan, Eric Fooder, Gregory Gregory, Robert Manzi, Creed Pogue and Joel Spiegel and Marc Thyrring
Board Members Absent:: William Zapisek, and Michael Hozik (Town of Hammonton- resigned)
Quorum Present? Yes

Others Present: Belinda Irizarry, Alternative from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA); and Mary Vavra, National Park Service

Proceedings

Rick Coe stated that the meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6. et seq. Notices were sent to official publications for the River Council -- The Courier Post and The Press of Atlantic City. A copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Fox Nature Center and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing. An Affidavit of publication from the Courier Post was received.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 21st

Julie made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Christman. Motion carried with no opposition.

Old Business

Rick Coe stated that Resolutions reviewed and approved at the February 21st meeting are all signed. An official seal for the River Council is now available from Belinda Irizarry. Dick Colby prepared and submitted the Application for Employer Identification Number and will be setting up a bank account for the River Council.

In response to a suggestion made at the February 21st meeting, Rick Coe stated that a letter on behalf of the River Council was prepared and sent to Commissioner Shinn (NJDEP). The letter thanked the Commissioner for NJDEP's support in enforcement along the Great Egg Harbor River Corridor and for the assistance by the regulatory staff in addressing issues relating to the permitting process. The letter emphasized the importance of NJDEP's strict enforcement of existing laws and also offered River Council assistance in addressing issues and opportunities in the designated corridor. A suggestion was made in the letter that the River Council and Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association could benefit from an educational session on the state permitting process conducted by someone in NJDEP's regulatory office. Mary Vavra mentioned that Patti Cluelow from the NJDEP Regulatory Office offered to make a presentation on NJDEP permits and was available on 5/22 and 7/24. The Promotion and Education committee will decide the best date for Patti's visit and extend a formal invitation. Mary Vavra will extend an invitation to Kevin Maley from the US Army Corps of Engineers to also participate in an educational session on federal/state permits.

Following up on a recommendation made at the February 21st meeting, Bill Christman made a presentation to the Hamilton Township Planning Board about the River Council. The Planning Board made a motion to invite a member of the River Council to a Planning Board meeting to discuss the River Council and local long-term protection of the river corridor. The Promotion/Education committee will decide the best date.

A discussion took place among members on the best approach to educating locally elected officials and planning/zoning boards about issues, protection requirements and opportunities. A number of suggestions were made and will be further explored by the Promotion/Education committee.

Mary Vavra mentioned that the supply of the Great Egg Harbor NS&R River CMP/EIS is depleted. She will begin the process of getting additional copies printed.

The subject of mailing copies of the minutes to a supplemental mailing list was revisited. Julie Akers made a motion that the February 21st meeting minutes be sent out with a letter requesting an expression of interest in receiving future minutes and also requesting a response which included either an e-mail address or a suggestion for another name within the organization who might be more appropriate. A non-response to the letter would indicate no interest. Marc Thyrring seconded the motion. Mary Vavra's NPS e-mail address will be used as the contact.

New Business

Mary Vavra discussed the site inspections she conducted on the river in the last several weeks with NJDEP and USCOE staff. There are a number of violations (primarily in Hamilton Township) under investigation and being pursued by both the NJDEP and USCOE. A discussion ensued about how to get local officials involved in educating property owners about the need for permits and what can, and cannot, be done on a waterfront property. There is a need to engage these officials in identifying violations. A suggestion was made to prepare a letter to waterfront property owners to educate them about responsibilities along the river corridor. Dick Colby suggested that educational articles should be written in the local newspapers to both educate and update readers on what is happening in the designated river corridor and this could be done by anyone on an individual basis. A suggestion was made that River Council members should work with municipal officials to cultivate relationships to help address violations. Creed Pogue suggested that the River Council invite code/zoning enforcement officers to attend a Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) meeting to encourage cooperation.

Mary Vavra will get copies of USCOE and NJDEP permit booklets for River Council members.

Rick Coe made a motion that the meeting be opened to the public. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. There were no public comments. Creed Pogue made a motion to close the public comment period and Julie Akers seconded it.

Rick Coe adjourned the meeting at 8:15PM