

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Thursday, September 11, 2025 @7pm in Borough Hall

Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chairperson Cynthia Coritz called the Tuckerton Environmental Commission meeting to order on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm in Borough Hall.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

“Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act have been complied with as notice was published in the Tuckerton Beacon and the Asbury Park Press stating the time, date and place of this meeting.”

Swearing in

The Mayor swore in Carolyn Keen to the Tuckerton Environmental Commission

Flag Salute

Vice Chairperson Cynthia Coritz led the salute of the flag.

Roll Call

Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin	Abs	Cynthia Coritz	P
Anthony Scaglione	P	John B. McCormack	P
Paul Solimani	P	Vincent Lauricella	P
Debra McMunn	Abs	Carolyn Keen	P

Also, In Attendance:

	Mayor Susan Marshall
Present	X
Absent	

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the August 2025 meeting were circulated, Mr. Solimani motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. McCormack it was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

Recording of Hours

The Tuckerton Environmental Commission recognizes their member's donation of time and knowledge for studies and research along with attendance of the monthly meetings and available workshops / seminars for the months of August 2025

Beth Obiedzinski-Garvin	Abs	Cynthia Coritz	2
Anthony Scaglione	4	John B. McCormack	3
Paul Solimani	2	Vincent Lauricella	2
Debra McMunn	Abs	Carolyn Keen	N/A

Old Business

Adopt-A-Highway: Ms. Coritz announced that the upcoming Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will take place on September 20, 2025, at 10:00 AM. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for September 21, 2025, at the same time. She will notify the Department of Transportation about the scheduled cleanup.

Ms. Keen reminded participants that anyone attending their first cleanup must watch the safety video beforehand. All participants will meet at Borough Hall. The cleanup area extends from the signs posted near the Corliss entry sign (at the beginning of the borough) down to Tip Seaman Drive.

The Department of Transportation has requested that volunteers identify and report the top five most common types of trash collected during the cleanup. Bags, pickers, and gloves will be provided for all participants.

Sustainable Jersey: No updates.

Grants: No updates.

Water ways: The committee discussed the living shoreline project that the Borough is undertaking. Soundings are currently being conducted, with work possibly having already begun. The project must be completed by March 2026. A committee member asked whether jetties will be installed to prevent the lagoons from refilling with sediment.

It was confirmed that jetties will be installed and will be raised to prevent refilling. The plan is to build a living shoreline extending out to the 1977 tideline, beyond where the former Zito houses were located. The lots have been transferred to the township to avoid eminent domain issues.

New Business

Committee Reports: Ms. Coritz mentioned that a couple of years ago, the Native Plant Society and other organizations created a video featuring 12 tenacious invasive plants and native alternatives for South Jersey. She suggested showing the video at the Seaport during the winter months, noting that the video creators might be willing to travel up from Atlantic County to

present and discuss it. The video could serve as a kickoff event for fundraising donations to support the removal of Bradford Callery pear trees.

Members Forum: None

Approval of Secretary Services

Mr. Solimani motioned, seconded by Ms. McMunn to approve the secretary's services for the month of September. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

Public Forum

Mr. Scaglione motioned, seconded by Mr. Solimani to open public forum.

Roger- Main Street Tree Project:

The committee discussed tree replacement options, with Roger presenting various species based on maintenance requirements, height restrictions, and growth rates. Sweet bay magnolia emerged as the preferred choice due to its low maintenance needs, slow growth, and attractive blue and white flowers that bloom from June to September. All options under consideration are native and pollinator-friendly, though American serviceberry was noted for dropping berries, which may be undesirable. Height restrictions are a significant factor due to electrical wires located 20 feet above the planter boxes. While black locust trees were discussed, concerns were raised about dropping branches near utility lines. Eastern redbuds were also considered as they are smaller, more delicate, and have less disruptive root systems that grow straight down rather than spreading horizontally.

The planting strategy includes using two different tree species to provide variety and reduce the risk of species-specific diseases. Tree spread must be carefully maintained to prevent encroachment on roads or sidewalks, with growth limited to the shoulder area. The selected slow-growing trees will require 15-20 years to reach 20 feet but will need regular trimming, especially near power lines. The current structurally unsound, oversized, and non-native pear trees will be replaced systematically, focusing on one corner at a time.

Project implementation will begin with a cleanup phase in the fall, involving cleaning out existing planters and addressing trees entangled with power lines, which will require professional assistance from AC Electric or similar services. Traffic control coordination with the police department will be necessary, and removing stumps and roots will be challenging due to narrow planters and potential sidewalk damage. The optimal planting time is April, allowing trees to establish before hot weather, with irrigation necessary during the first summer using gator bags.

Watering solutions are being explored, including rain barrel placement options and potential assistance from the fire company for watering trees every two weeks. The complete project is estimated to take three to four years, progressing in quarters. Mr. Lauricella has stepped forward to lead the project, and coordination with existing green teams will prevent duplication of efforts. Currently, there is \$200 in funding donated by the TBA, with additional fundraising planned between September and late March, including the duck and decoy show as a major fundraiser. Tree selection must account for salt tolerance due to street brine application, and the committee

will investigate insurance coverage from planting companies. The trees will be small and manageable, either balled in burlap or containers, with compost added to the soil without extensive testing or amending.

Calvin Morey reminded the board to consider the two oak trees located in front of the old Borough Hall. He noted that he was born on Wood Street 76 years ago and would have been 16 years old when these trees were planted, emphasizing their historical significance. He clarified that the intent was not to remove long-established trees but rather to maintain the recently planted ones. Morey also provided historical context, mentioning that the current liquor store building was originally a bank that failed during the Great Depression.

Seeing no other comment from the public. Mr. Solimani motioned, seconded by Ms. Keen to close public forum

Adjournment

Seeing there were no more comments from the Commission, Mr. Solimani motioned, seconded by Ms. Keen to adjourn the meeting. It was so moved by unanimous consent of the Commission. The Environmental Commission meeting ended at 7:53pm.

Sincerely,
Savannah Beaulieu
Tuckerton Environmental Commission Secretary