

NJRPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
MAY 11, 2022

Present: Bill Foelsch, Rick Wright, Kat Avitt, Jen Underwood, Don Bogardus, Dina Trunzo, Tim Roetman, Katie Frey, Kevin Dunn, Dawn Thompson, Denise Lanza, Jen Gander, Robin Madden, Romaine Eaker Kelly, Mary Beth Wheeler, Pam Griffin

Review of Bills:

A3174/S2297 – Requires all drones to have geo-fencing technology that limits altitude and certain locations. **Monitor**

A3606/S1770 – Allows possession of bear spray. State Parks and Forestry units are jointly working on a Bear Management Plan for State parks. **Support**

A3614 – Directs DEP to designate areas and install bat houses. Includes perimeter protections and educational signs. **Monitor**

A3677/S2186 – Prohibits the sale and distribution of invasive plant species. **Support**

A3731/S1492 – Penny’s Law. Requires DEP to develop beach access guidelines. One year from date of approval, DEP to work with DHS on guidelines for public beaches, including signs and website information. NJRPA has supported this in previous years. Continue to **Support**, set meeting with sponsor (new member).

A3729/S1981 – Prohibits sex offenders from holding a job that primarily consists of contact with children. (80% of tasks = primary responsibility). **Support**

A3732 – Restoring the Safety Buffer. Changes the perimeter around buildings for bow and arrow hunting to 450’ from 150’ in certain circumstances. Requires notification of hunting on private property to adjacent land owners. **Monitor**. Seek additional information on impact.

A3747 – Appropriates \$2M from CBT funding for historic preservation grants for veterans’ monuments. **Monitor**

A3799 – Exempts community gardens composting on site from the NJ Air Pollution Control Act provisions. Removes DEP fee, on site compost to be used on site. **Support**

A3814 – Restricts sale and use of remaining property at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital property in Morris County. Provides 671 acres to the County of Morris exclusive of roads, for \$1. **Support**

A3906 – Prohibits sales and use of gas-powered lawn equipment. Provides CBT and income tax credit for purchase of 0 emission equipment. Prohibits sale in 3 years, use in 5 years. Provides for 1-year extension by DEP under certain circumstances. Includes 2 stroke and 4 stroke engines. The technology and the cost are not yet ready for large property use. There are also supply chain and lithium mining issues. NJRPA members to continue working with industry representatives and legislators to discuss impact on parks and golf course management. **Oppose Active**.

A3923 – Appropriates \$500,000 in supplemental funds for deer fencing grants. Managed through Dept. of Agriculture. **Support**

AJR152 – Designates the last full weekend in August as Bat Night Out. Joins international effort started in 1997. Recommends public educational activities. **Support Active**.

S349/A3876 – Requires a policy on heat exhaustion and a pamphlet on heat stroke for colleges and K-12 schools. Policy at colleges for prevention and treatment. Pamphlet for coaches, students, and parents in K-12 schools. **Monitor**

S1752/A3848 – Provides COVID immunity for swimming pools in planned real estate communities.

Monitor

S1894/A3838 – Amends municipal consolidation process. Includes greater flexibility, clarity and tools. Can be non-contiguous but within the same county. Provides for specific petition process and reporting.

Monitor

Status Reports:

Camp Guidelines/COVID – DOH has agreed that recreation programs are generally not subject to camp standards except as outlined by the CDC for camps and recreational bathing. Jen Gander reported that the Youth Camp Safety Act expires at the end of the year and NJRPA needs to be at the table. Bill reported that there is to be a stakeholders group empaneled. Rick said that he has spoken to Rosie Driscoll at DOH and he will follow up to ask where they are in the process, what changes are being considered and when meetings might be scheduled. Bill noted this is a high priority for NJRPA.

RA/RS Certification – Our Senate sponsor is set. We thought we had an Assembly sponsor but the Office of Legislative Services explained that someone else is already planning to sponsor the bill. They are not permitted to disclose who that is. The bill is not yet posted. Civil Service is asking about the status as they are holding up the description and may remove the requirement if the delay drags on. Rick will get a copy of the email in hopes of moving the bill along.

Forest Stewardship Task Force – Bill reported that the bill in the last session would require a plan for property greater than 10 acres. The Task Force is in place, a leadership panel has been created. The task force has open membership. Natural resource members have been recruited. The first meeting was held virtually with more than 200 attendees. Bill testified about the cost and ensuring that recommendations are scientifically based. There are two sub-groups – ecological and climate change. A report is due at the end of the year. Anyone interested may still join the group.

Creative Arts Therapy – appointments to the group are in the Judiciary Committee. The current meeting agenda does not include appointments and there are no meetings scheduled after May. Rick's office continues to seek info on the status.

Public Policy Platform – this will be picked up again soon.

DEP Reorganization – divisional moves and leadership changes were discussed. The governor has determined that State parks should have free admission and the lost funds are to be covered with budget allocations.

NEXT MEETING – JULY 6 AT SUNNYSIDE EQUESTRIAN CENTER, MONMOUTH COUNTY PARKS