



MINUTES

**TOWN OF JUPITER
ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (ETF)
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
April 28, 2025
6:00 PM**

ROLL CALL:

Chair Willie Puz	X	Member Jill Watson (Alt)	X
Vice-Chair Christina Akly	X	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Christa Cherry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Emily O'Mahoney	X	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Beth Summers	X		

Staff Liaisons: Jeff Buck, Senior Natural Resources Coordinator
Ashley Reeves, Natural Resources Coordinator
John Sickler, Director of Planning and Zoning

CITIZEN COMMENTS

All non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. **The Task Force will not discuss these items this evening.**

None

MINUTES

Approval of the October 28, 2024 ETF Meeting Minutes [Attachment 1]

Motion to approve by member O'Mahoney. Seconded by member Akly.

Willie Puz	Christina Akly	Emily O'Mahoney	Beth Summers	Jill Watson
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Welcome – Jeff Buck, Senior Natural Resources Coordinator

Chair Puz asked newest member Jeff Buck to give a brief introduction of himself.

John Sickler, Director of Planning & Zoning, spoke briefly to make some announcements, including the resignations of Nikki Carpenito and Barrett Cruce from the Town of Jupiter.

2. Resignation of Task Force Member Anne Shoffner

Staff Ashley Reeves brought attention to the vacancies and states that the reappointments are tentatively scheduled for June 3rd, waiting for an appointment for the open Council Member Seat before committee appointments. Staff explained that the Task Force is required to meet quarterly

Task Force Members expressed similar comments made by Anne and her reasons for resigning: infrequent and inconsistent meeting times, not feeling as if the Task Force has much meaningful impact, whether Town Council Members or Staff truly views the minutes.

Staff explained that the Task Force focus is designated by the Town Council and concerns regarding issues such as reappointment can be brought up to individual Town Council Members via public comment.

3. Presentation – Oyster Recycling by Tom Twyford, Executive Director of Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation

Tom Twyford introduced himself and the Foundation, the West Palm Beach Fishing Club – involved with the mangroves, artificial reefs, and living shorelines at Lake Worth Lagoon.

Mr. Twyford gave presentation on vertical oyster gardens, which require no permit and are generally installed underneath existing docks. Overall goal is to maintain and restore habitats for marine life. Sediment smothers essential habitat, seagrasses and oyster beds, in the Loxahatchee River Estuary. Wants to support oyster numbers because they are the most efficient, natural, and cost-effective filtering system. Cure shells collected locally to be used for oyster reef restoration.

Task Force members discussed areas within the Town that vertical oyster gardens could be utilized. Staff mentioned that current marine restoration project at Sawfish Bay Park could potentially utilize vertical oyster gardens. Task Force members discussed an art installation of vertical oyster garden with information signage to explain the project to residents.

Task Force members also discussed potential places within Town that could host a place to cure oysters if the Town was to start constructing its own vertical oyster gardens. Expressed that the oyster curing station would have to be away from residential areas in order to increase impacts to residents due to odors.

Task Force members asked Mr. Twyford what the Task Force could do to support the foundation's mission. Mr. Twyford responded that staying informed on the progress of the foundation and spreading word to other residents.

Task Force members asked Mr. Twyford if the foundation provided a manufacturing and installation guide for vertical oyster gardens. Mr. Twyford responded that the foundation does provide that information.

4. Street Tree Management Plan Update [Attachment 2]

Presentation given by Staff on the result of several street tree management plans within Town. Member O'Mahoney provided input as her office conducted multiple street tree studies.

Member O'Mahoney stated that she believes street trees should be considered infrastructure to the same degree of all other infrastructure.

Staff further discussed creative solutions to address conflicts between trees and the built-environment.

5. Centennial Celebration – Arbor Day May 17, 2025

Staff thanked Task Force Members for participation in Centennial events so far. Reminded Task Force members of the date for Arbor Day Proclamation at Town Council on May 6th.

Staff discussed the Arbor Day event this year, a tree giveaway (100 seedlings from the historic Cabot Oak) by Jupiter High School's Horticulture Program.

6. Staff Updates

a. North Delaware Exotic Removal

Staff explained the progress on exotic removal at the North Delaware open space property. Contractor is TreeCycle Land Clearing, Inc. Have not executed the contract as of current Task Force Meeting but timeline is 90 days once put forth. Staff is awaiting direction from Town Council on any site development.

b. Sims Creek Preserve

Staff is working on permitting, and preparing to go out for bid. Staff explained that site development includes kayak launch (constructed), small parking lot and a bioretention area on south portion of property. Staff plans to begin construction late this year.

Staff also provided a brief update on the vulnerability assessment. Vulnerability assessment is projected to finish in July, and tentatively scheduled for Town Council roundtable in the fall.

Staff discussed meeting reminder for future meetings. Task Force members agreed that calendar invite is the most effective reminder. Staff mentioned emailing meeting changes at least 2 weeks ahead of time.

7. Task Force Member Comments

Task Force members expressed an interest in have a project to work on. Chair Puz discussed current events in the Town and the State, including balloon release issue, artificial turf bills, CRA bills, emergency management bill.

Member O'Mahoney discussed frustration regarding the Task Force not having input on Town Projects (New Town Hall, Police Department building, etc).

8. Next meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room

ADJOURNMENT

8:25pm motion to adjourn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Puz", written over a horizontal line.