



MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER
ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (ETF)
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
March 30, 2026
6:00 PM

ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Liaisons: Eddy Akpoji, Senior Natural Resources Coordinator
Ashley Reeves, Natural Resources Coordinator
Stephanie A. Thoburn, Asst. 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.**

Ms. Annette Beverly, of the Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club, spoke to offer a donation of a tree to be planted within the Town in celebration of Arbor Day. The garden club also inquired on the process to add a butterfly garden to a green space near the Community Center.

MINUTES

- 1. Approval of the March 30, 2026 ETF Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Board Member Watson. Seconded by Board Member O'Mahoney.

Puz	Akly	O'Mahoney	Watson	O'Hara	Kreuger	Shemella
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

- 2. Piatt Place Park Public Safety Docks & Riverwalk Overlook [Attachment 2]

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Assistant Director of Planning Stephanie Thoburn provided an overview of the Piatt Place project, which includes waterfront park with public safety docks and a Riverwalk overlook along the Jupiter Riverwalk. The project is within the Community Redevelopment Agency area and will provide public views of the water. Ms. Thoburn explained how the project ties into the overall Riverwalk and the Florida SUN (Shared Use Network) Trail project along US 1. The project was also awarded a grant by the Florida Inland Navigational District for planning and design.

3. Arbor Day

- a. Proclamation tentatively scheduled for May 5th Town Council

Staff invited task force members to attend the Town Council meeting to accept the Arbor Day proclamation.

- b. Arbor Day event ideas for May

Staff explained that the Town has been a nationally recognized Tree City for 29 years, and as part of that recognition the Town must celebrate Arbor Day with a proclamation and an event. Staff asked Environmental Task Force members for any event ideas. Discussion occurred on a tree planting at an open space property and a potential tree giveaway.

Annette Beverly, Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club, spoke on how the Garden Club could work with the Town to help with any Arbor Day event.

4. Staff Updates

- a. Trash Cleanup

Staff thanked task force members that attended the trash cleanup at the Jones Creek Hammock and North County Aquatic Center and provided an. Staff, Environmental Task Force members, and Palm Beach County staff from the aquatic center came together to pick up over 300 pounds of trash within the open space property. Staff and Environmental Task Force members discussed locations and dates for future trash cleanups.

- b. Resilient Florida Planning Grant – Sawfish Bay

Staff provided an update that the Town was awarded a Resilient Florida planning grant for a feasibility study in Sawfish Bay. Staff anticipates bringing the grant agreement to an upcoming Town Council meeting for approval.

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5. Environmental Task Force Member comments

Board Member O'Mahoney spoke about whether created varieties of native species or species that have adapted to the Florida climate should be included as a native species in the Town. Board Member O'Mahoney stated that if the variety serves the same ecological function as the native species then it could potentially be counted as native. Town code is specific to the native plants recognized by South Florida Water Management District, while members identified that the Florida Friendly Landscaping plant guide was a more updated list of native plantings. Chair Puz suggested that this could be discussed as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Board Member Akly and Kreuger thanked staff for the recent trash cleanup and looks forward to the next cleanup event.

Board Member Watson thanked staff for their hard work.

Board Member O'Hara provided details of a nonprofit company that creates biochar from deceased orange trees in central Florida, as well as supplies recycled plastic to municipalities for use in parks.

Board Member Shemella asked if the recent cold snap experienced in the area helped to curtail invasive species in Town. Staff mentioned that Dodder vine, although a native vine species occasionally viewed as a nuisance, took a hard hit from the cold. Member O'Mahoney observed that properties that continued to run irrigation tended to have worse die off than those that turned off their irrigation.

Chair Puz thanked staff for the coordination and communication of Town events to the task force. Staff member Eddy Akpoji provided Chair Puz an update on the Tequesta Tree Canopy program that was inquired about. Staff member Akpoji shared a website from the Florida Forest Service that provides information about tree canopy coverage in the Jupiter area.

6. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:35pm made by Emily O'Mahoney, seconded by Jill Watson.