

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Clerk Wallace at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Clerk who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Busch and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Ed Grant, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor John Amenhauser. This meeting was held electronically via Zoom under local operation guidance from the NJDCA, pursuant to P.L. 2020, c.11.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Civic Club Request to Use Pavilion Circle for Annual Bazaar: Commissioner Busch felt she had to recuse herself because she is a member of the Civic Club, but Solicitor Amenhauser stated there was not a conflict of interest. The commissioners were in favor of permitting the use of the circle, but could not be certain what type of limitation might exist in July. Civic Club will have to submit the usual application and the approval would be conditioned on compliance with CDC guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 that are in place at the time of the event.

Adding Agenda Statement for Public Portion: The Board considered placing language on future agendas regarding protocol for speaking during public portions, similar to language already in place on Planning Board agendas. Commissioner Busch mentioned the addition is part of a "transparency in government" action for Sustainable Jersey and would be helpful in obtaining points for future certification. The commissioners approved language and asked the Clerk to add the language to future agendas.

Commissioner Busch reported on the Yale Avenue water project. An email blast was sent out earlier and letters from herself and the Borough Clerk were sent to affected property owners. She also reported Lake Lily was lowered to facilitate dewatering that will be needed during the Yale Avenue project. Ms. Busch received several calls regarding water going into Lake Lily from the State Park. Water drains into the lake from the State Park as well as storm drains in town. There has been talk about putting a gate on the pipe, which can be considered when there is funding. She also reported on water ponding at the end of Brainard. Public Works has begun work to put in stone and sand to see if it helps the situation. The Environmental Commission has recommended the Borough remove certain trees in the dunes off Crystal between Stites and Alexander. The Tree of Heaven is the preferred host of the spotted lantern fly, and eliminating the trees in the fall is a step toward helping to eliminate the pests. All commissioners were in favor of removing the trees. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked about removal of some invasive plants at the Alexander beach entrance. Ms. Busch was familiar with the plants, which are also present along Lighthouse Avenue. She will ask the EC to research how to remove them. She believed it would be a multiyear process. The Environmental Commission has also recommended removing invasive plants from the island in Lake Lily and replacing them with native species.

Keeping the island planted discourages Canada Geese. The Friends of Lake Lily are also interested in replanting the island and have offered to pay for all or part of the project. Commissioner vanHeeswyk was in favor of the project but advised the Borough previously received a donation to plant the island and place a stone marker as a memorial. Ms. Busch has papers on that project, as long as no invasive plants were used, the new project could observe the original plan and add to it. Mayor Moffatt agreed the work needs to be done. Commissioner Busch will work with the EC and Friends of Lake Lily.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk reminded everyone the next meeting will be the budget hearing. She also reported several people, when calling to schedule a COVID vaccine, were told they couldn't get one at the Avalon site because they didn't live in Cape May County. The same problem was reported by people in another town within the county. Mrs. vanHeeswyk called the County IT department and they said they would have it resolved by the following afternoon. If anyone has the problem in the future, please report it to the Borough.

Mayor Moffatt reported the Borough is moving forward on the purchase of an electric vehicle. The Beach Tag Director is on board, and the Borough is hoping to finance the purchase through various grants.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Grant has been looking at grants for the electric vehicle. He has also been working on getting driver licenses for employees and other annual requirements, updating the employment practices personnel policy and corresponding manual, and has completed the JIF exposure verification audit for workman's compensation and inventory survey. The clerk and CFO are working on the rental permit notification and processing. Lastly, he reported the bamboo ordinance and request for tree and sidewalk removal are still under review.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 44-21 Resolution in Support of H.R. 946, The Stop the Attack on Local Taxpayers Act
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor
- 45-21 Authorizing Agreement for Lake Lily Invasive Plant Management Project
Motions: Busch, vanHeeswyk
Roll call: all in favor
- 46-21 Approval of Bill List
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor

PUBLIC PORTION:

Sandy Allison asked Commissioner Busch how the ponding at Brainard was going to be handled and if it was going to be engineered. She also expressed concern with what might happen to Lake Lily if this is a dry spring and the level is kept low for dewatering Yale. Commissioner Busch stated springs have been rainy the last 5 years or so, but regardless, the water level has to be kept low.

Tom Maye commented on the issue with Cape May Point not being recognized as being in Cape May County. He had a similar difficulty with the postal service thinking 08212 was in Rio Grande.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Commissioner Busch.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Busch

Mayor Moffatt

Commissioner vanHeeswyk