

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 8, 2020

Start Time: 10:02 am

End Time: 11:58 am

EC Members participating by videoconference due to Covid-19:

(X) Sandy Allison

(X) Paula Massanari

(X) Barb Bassett

(X) Commissioner Robert Mullock

(X) Catherine Busch, Chair

(X) Isabelle Neary

(X) Jamie Goren, Vice Chair

(X) Emelia Oleson

Others present: Jonathan Westcott, Lynn Smith, Peg Fratz, Dick Saari, Chris Meyerink.

### AGENDA

Sunshine Law Statement – This meeting was properly advertised in the Cape May Star & Wave and duly posted at the Borough Municipal Bldg in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

CB announced that the meeting would be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future since the Borough has purchased a Zoom account. Each meeting will be assigned a new meeting number and password. CB further announced that the EC is still looking for a person to record meeting minutes each month.

**Minutes:** CB shared additional correction from EO clarifying cutting vegetation on Borough property. On motion of SA, second by BB, minutes from June 10, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** None

### Reports:

**Lake Lily:** See new business. CB noted the plan to add an additional flower bed to the southwest side of Lake Lily will be developed by two members of the EC, and it is hoped that the FLL still intends to purchase the plants for this new bed in the fall.

**Triangle Park:** The Borough is nearing finalization of a contract with the NJ Audubon to begin on August 1.

**Beach:** Commissioner Mullock reported that the Borough has purchased a gently used tractor for use on the beach. The old tractor has been traded in. JG asked if a sign will be placed at beach entrances requiring the use of masks on beach pathways. CB suggested JG refer this question to the Public Safety Commissioner, Bob Moffatt.

**Bike Path:** Nothing new to report.

**Green Team:** Nothing new to report.

**Commissioner Liaison:** No additional report.

**Planning Board:** Nothing new to report.

**Old Business:**

**Plant labels for rain garden and Lake Lily south-end garden:** An order for labels was submitted to the Borough Administrator.

**Doug Tallamy's 'Homegrown National Park' - follow-up?:** Tabled until the August EC meeting.

**New Business:**

**Dune Day Plan:** Jonathan Westcott presented a comprehensive plan focused on adding American beach grass, seaside goldenrod, bitter panicgrass, coastal little bluestem, and Virginia rose to the frontal dune, with particular emphasis on the southern facing beaches (St. Pete, Coral, Whillden). A seeding effort will also take place. Commissioner Mullock asked that the beach blanket area not be planted or seeded, and Mr. Westcott agreed. Commissioner Mullock also asked if a few trees and grasses could be added to the "right side" of the Alexander dune. Mr. Westcott will look at the possibility of adding to the Alexander dune, particularly holly bushes and Eastern red cedar. The Borough will purchase the items that Mr. Westcott identifies. Mr. Westcott will send a proposed list of items to be purchased to Commissioner Mullock. EO has two holly bushes that she will donate to Dune Day, and Mr. Westcott thanked her for the offer. Mr. Westcott noted that the St.Pete dunes are "a bit low and problematic." He would like to address the issue with additional vegetation, but the width of the beach limits possibilities. Commissioner Mullock will look at ways to limit public access to the area. Commissioner Mullock asked Mr. Westcott to provide input on the beach entrance at Cape and Lincoln, and Mr. Westcott agreed. BB offered a motion to approve the Dune Day plan, SA seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Algae and lake management plan followup: ANJEC webinar "Understanding Harmful Algal Blooms in NJ" and Princeton Hydro:** There was an extensive discussion of an ANJEC webinar on harmful algae blooms and lake management. Prior to the meeting, CB shared a preliminary, electronic proposal from Princeton Hydro company for a comprehensive lake management plan. Members of the EC were asked to review the plan prior to the meeting. There is a wealth of previous data regarding the lake available, but no comprehensive data has been collected since the bulkhead project has been completed. Since Lake Lily connects to the State Park lake, any lake management plan should include information from the State Park. Commissioner Mullock noted that this year's capital budget includes money to examine "exit pipes" for water runoff in the event of a large storm. He is "very concerned" about the state of the pipes that drain out of Lake Lily. Next step: CB made a motion that the EC recommend that the Borough pursue a contract with Princeton Hydro to develop a comprehensive study of the lake including data collection, as well as recommendations for the future. SA seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Commissioner Mullock asked PM to contact the directors of the FLL and ask if the FLL would provide any monetary support toward a comprehensive plan being developed. PM agreed to contact the FLL.

**Mosquito Spray:** A new item of business was added by CB at the request of Lynn Smith regarding mosquito spraying in the community. Mr. Smith is asking the EC to investigate the use of mosquito spray, especially by commercial companies that accidentally spray neighboring properties as happened to him. IN and BB will look into the regulation of mosquito spray and report back to the EC at the August meeting. Specifically, does ANJEC have suggestions/guidelines regarding spraying? Have other towns in NJ addressed this issue? Can local municipalities limit the commercial use of spray?

**Announcements:** JG asked about organic methods for controlling the growth and spread of bamboo. EO indicated that she is currently having conversations with NJ Audubon about this topic and hopes to have information to share at the August EC meeting.

**Public Portion:** BB made a motion to move into the public portion of the meeting. IS seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chris Meyerink said he is also concerned about mosquito spraying and the impact on neighboring properties. Also, he asked if anyone had contacted Solitude (the company that previously held a contract for lake management) for coordinating management of Lake Lily and the State Park lakes. CB referred that question to Commissioner Mullock.

Mary Kelly stated her concern about light fixtures being added to private properties. Are there Borough guidelines on this? Does the EC have concerns? CB noted that this has been discussed by the Planning Board and suggested following up with them. Mary also asked if the Tree/Vegetation ordinance draft will be shared with the public before it is finalized? The EC is hopeful that the Borough Commissioners will be discussing the proposed ordinance in a public meeting in the near future.

**Adjournment:** IN made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and to adjourn the meeting. PM seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.