

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 10, 2021 – 10 am

Start Time 10:06

End Time 11:21

EC Members present:

(X) Sandy Allison

(X) Paula Massanari

(X) Barb Bassett, Chair

(X) Isabelle Neary

(X) Commissioner Catherine Busch

() Emelia Oleson

(X) Elise Geiger

() Carol Sowers

(X) Jamie Goren, Vice Chair

Others present _____

AGENDA

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

Welcome New Members. Elise Geiger and Carol Sowers were welcomed as the newest members of the EC. They were appointed by Mayor Moffat. BB reminded everyone that the EC is a recommending body to the Commissioners on environmental matters. It is then up to the Commissioners if they follow the recommendations of the EC.

Minutes: The minutes from January 13, 2020 were unanimously approved after a motion by PN and seconded by IN.

Reports:

- **Lake Lily:** CB received the work plan for Audubon and has met with Audubon staff, and is satisfied with their proposal. The agreement has been reviewed by the Solicitor and will reviewed with FLL. Solitude Water management Proposal: Borough has no current contract on the maintenance of the Clean-Flo bubblers but will have further communication with FLL on this topic. CB is reviewing the Princeton Hydro plan. There may be duplication of services. The FLL plan for testing is on hold since it may be included in the Princeton Plan. CB will provide more clarification at next month's meeting. Island: The EC will send a recommendation to the Commissioners to initiate a Project for removal of invasives and replanting of the island with native plantings.
- **Triangle Park:** Triangle Park was picked as the cover of Pointers brochure. Public Works will be removing 2 clumps of grass.
- **Beach:** The sand replenishment project is complete. On Feb 7 there was a walk through to inspect. All beaches have been re-opened. CB reports that she and Public Works will look at all Beach Entrances in the month of March to identify if Beach Entrances need improvement. Cape and Pearl may be entrances that need upgrade. CB notes that these projects may need permits and engineering studies in compliance with Florida Rules.
- **Green Team:** The GT received bronze certification which is good for 3 years. At this time, the GT will be rolled into the EC. It can always be broken out into a separate Team again if necessary.
- **Commissioner Liaison:** The Yale Ave water pipe is the oldest pipe in town and the connectors are lead. The project to replace this pipe will be starting in the next few weeks (Target Feb 22). All homeowners on Yale will be sent letters on the Project and what to expect.
- **Planning Board:** There is nothing new to report.

The Cape May Point Environmental Commission meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 10:00 am at Borough Hall when possible. Members of the public are welcome. The commission [5-7 members and up to 2 alternates] is responsible for the restoration, preservation and development of the natural resources located in Cape May Point. In practice, this involves reviewing, coordinating, researching, and advising the Borough on all environmental matters including the management of public lands.

Old Business:

- Spotted Lantern Fly [SLF]: BB has developed a presentation on the SLF which will be added to the Environment Section, Under Protecting Our Environment on the Borough website. The SLF prefers Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) which is an insidious species which is exceedingly difficult to get rid of and easily spreads. There are some on Public Property on the dunes on Crystal Ave. The EC will forward a recommendation to the Commissioners to remove all Ailanthus found on Public Property.
- Bottle Cap Recycling: This is a project requires additional information before proceeding. The chef from the Mission Inn has been the drop-off person but the inn is currently closed for the season. EO and JG will research the specifics before determining whether to proceed.
- 2021 Budget: The Commissioners will review the Budget at Thursday's meeting. Once the budget is approved the EC will create a detailed budget.

New Business:

- EC Annual Report: CB issued the Annual Report as required by State Regulation. This Report will be sent to the Commissioners and put on the borough website.
- Rain Barrel Workshop: This program will be rolled-out in 2 sections and participation will be dependent upon interest. There will be a zoom meeting at a date to be determined in March on How to Make a Rain Barrel. This meeting will be used to judge interest. If there is interest, a hands-on workshop for May 15 or 22nd can be scheduled. This is also pending the Covid situation as well.
- The EC is recommending to the Commissioners that the Tree of Heaven, (*Ailanthus altissima*), be removed anywhere on borough property since this tree attracts SLP. More than likely, the removal will need to be started in late summer/early fall since this is the best time per Penn State.

Announcements

IN attended the ANJEC webinar. The NJ Clean Communities has set aside \$500,000.00 for education. There will be a NJ "NO PLASTICS" section on their website soon. NJ Clean Communities will be rolling out a "CHOOSE TO REUSE" Campaign. It is important for Environmental Commissions to set up 2-3 community specific goals to engage the community and promote EC work. Governor Murphy just signed a bill to include climate change in communities' Master Plans.

Public Portion

Dick Saari confirmed that there were no written contracts for the Clean-Flo bubblers. He will send copies of invoices to CB. He agreed with the recommendation to remove invasives from the Lake Lily island and offered FLL to help.

Robert Mullock noted that he has asked the borough if he could remove the Southern Catalpa trees located on his property. They are "dirty" trees that are raising the sidewalks. The Southern Catalpa is a non-native tree. The EC has no issue should the commissioners decide to allow their removal.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by IN and seconded by JG.

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