

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 10, 2021 – 10 am

Start Time 10:00

End Time 11:11

EC Members present:

(X) Sandy Allison

(X) Paula Massanari

(X) Barb Bassett, Chair

(X) Isabelle Neary

(X) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(X ) Emelia Oleson

(X) Elise Geiger

(X ) Carol Sowers

( ) Jamie Goren, Vice Chair

Others present \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Minutes:** The minutes from February 10, 2021, were unanimously approved after a motion by PM and seconded by IN.

### Reports:

- **Lake Lily:** The 3-year agreement with Audubon for the removal of invasive plants was signed, and an executed copy has been received. The EC recommendation on removal of the invasive plants on the island has been approved by the Commissioners. As the weather warms, CB plans to take out a boat to the island to identify invasive plants and decide whether Public Works can do the removal, or whether someone needs to be hired to do the work.
- **Triangle Park:** Nothing new to report.
- **Beach:** The sand replenishment project is complete. CB is evaluating Beach entrance crossovers.
- **Green Team:** The GT received bronze certification which is good for 3 years. Further discussion on the need for a Green Team will take place in the summer.
- **Commissioner Liaison:** The Yale Ave water pipe project has started. Test holes are being drilled on Yale Ave. A detailed memo has been sent out defining the scope and timing of the project. If all proceeds according to the planned schedule, the project will be completed by Memorial Day. The Borough Engineer's Office will be supervising the project. There have been 2 recent water pipe breaks, one on Lincoln Ave and one on Lighthouse Ave. The Lincoln break was the service from the main between the main and was the responsibility of the Borough. The Lighthouse break involved a sewer pipe and the water service to a house on Lighthouse. Both were repaired expeditiously. CB also reported that there is a slow leak on Lehigh/Yale by Lighthouse. That leak will be addressed as part of the overall project. The next Commissioners Meeting will be on the Budget.
- **Planning Board:** BB reports that she has been appointed to the open position on the Board. It is customary that a member of the EC is also on the Planning Board. It facilitates reporting and communication between the two groups.

### Old Business:

- **Spotted Lantern Fly [SLF]:** The Commissioners have agreed to the removal of the Tree of Heaven located on the dune by Alexander. BB will first take steps to definitively identify the plant. In the late summer/early fall the tree will be girdled and poisoned. The tree cannot simply be cut down because it generates shoots, making it more difficult to remove. CB communicated the request made by Anita at the last Commissioner's work session to have the EC evaluate the Japanese Knot Weed found on Alexander. BB will research removal of Japanese Knot Weed and will report to the EC at the next meeting. This is also a difficult invasive to

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remove and may be a multi-year process. It was also reported that the Taxpayers Association Newsletter incorrectly stated that a Lantern Fly was spotted in Cape May Point. To date, none have been spotted in CMP, although one may have been spotted at the State Park. The Taxpayers Association will be provided clarifying information on the Lantern Fly, also to avoid any misunderstanding that the removal of the Tree of Heaven will remove any potential for a Lantern Fly infestation.

- Bottle Cap Recycling: Nothing new to report.
- Rain Barrel Workshop: Fifteen people from CMP have signed up for the workshop. Notification of the workshop has been sent to the West Cape May Environmental Commission, The Cape May Environmental Commission, and the Garden Club of Cape May. The last day to sign up for the March 15 workshop is March 10.

### **New Business:**

- Mayor's Monarch Pledge: IN and PM presented background on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge program. This program was started by the National Wildlife Federation to promote community awareness and involvement in the preservation of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Participating communities receive recognition from the Wildlife Federation. IN and PM propose that CMP pledge to the following 3 items which are current active programs.
  - Issue a proclamation to raise awareness.
  - Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator friendly demonstration garden (Triangle Park)
  - Launch, expand or continue an invasive species removal program.

The EC agreed unanimously to recommend pursuit of this program.

The Pledge form needs to be submitted by March 31. BB will review the paperwork requirement and will send to the Mayor and Commissioners for consideration at the Work Session of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

- The EC would like to hand out milkweed plants this summer. The preference would be to have a table at the Civic Club Bazaar.
- BB will review the email received regarding ANJAC EC Commission grant opportunities (\$1500)
- The West Cape May EC has printed brochures on invasive plants. Some copies will be made available at the Town Hall and Post Office.
- EC logo: The current logo in use is the official CMP logo. The EC would like to design and use a distinct logo for the EC. IN's son-in-law provided 4 options for a logo treatment for consideration. EC members are to provide input on preference or revisions for discussion and vote at the next EC meeting. Following EC approval, the logo would be sent to the Commissioners for approval.
- Beach clean-up is scheduled for April 24. The Mullock family will manage the program this Spring. EO is checking on the Fall date. It was clarified that EO remains the Clean Communities Coordinator. An announcement on the Spring Clean-up will be made on the website.

### **Public Portion**

New resident Dennis Urffer introduced himself and offered assistance as needed. He was advised of ways to be informed of volunteer activities.

Kyle Rossner, of the Department of Cape May County Mosquito Control introduced himself. He expressed interest in attending the Rain Barrel Workshop. He noted that if rain barrels are not properly sealed, they can be a source of mosquito problems. He will attend the workshop and advises that he is resource for help and support. He noted the desire to reduce pesticide usage at Cape May Point., particularly by private applicators. These pesticides can have a negative effect on pollinators and butterflies. The best way to control for mosquitos is the continued education of the public on open containers.

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

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