

**CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING via Zoom**

April 14, 2021, 10 am

Start Time 10:02

End Time 11:50

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

Others present Chris Meyerink

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:** PM made a motion to approve the minutes. IN seconded and the March 10, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

**REPORTS**

**Lake Lily:** CB reported that she asked Clean Flo to service the bubblers and to provide information on their costs for muck removal tabs and algae reduction products. The muck tabs purchased by FLL in the past have all been used. CB has not yet gone to the island to identify the extent of invasive vines/plants present. She plans to do that after the shrubs have produced more leaves.

**Triangle Park:** No report

**Beach:** Commissioner Busch reported beach cleanup is scheduled for 4/24/21. Residents are encouraged to volunteer by contacting Bob Mullock who is this year's organizer. The annual beach survey is complete, but CB has not yet received the report. She will share it with the EC when she receives a copy. The Alexander beach is not to be raked anytime soon since it falls in the "precautionary zone," which outlines wildlife and plants that should not be disturbed.

**Green Team:** BB will add some topics to next month's agenda to be discussed.

**Commissioner Liaison:** CB announced that the CMPT budget passed. The water main project on Yale Avenue is proceeding and will be completed prior to Memorial Day. Some sediment from the project has gone into Lake Lily. That issue is being closely monitored. The Commissioners have approved Verizon's request to install six small cell towers. The CMPT traffic calming plan was approved by the Commissioners. Revision of the landscaping ordinance, based on the EC's recommendations, is not ready for introduction. The parrot feather in Lake Lily is spreading, and CB has not yet found a company that is equipped to address the issue.

**Planning Board:** 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]:** Another SLF article was published in the CMP Taxpayers Bulletin in April. The link within the article received 97 “clicks.” An article regarding hatching instars will be written in May.

**Japanese Knotweed:** BB reported that it is exceedingly difficult to remove. It is in the dunes at Alexander close to the Tree of Heaven. The EC recommends that the Borough remove the knotweed after the tree of heaven is removed.

**Bottle Cap Program:** EO contacted the NJ Girl Scout Council to see if a local scout troop would be interested in getting involved in the bottle cap program. She has not heard back and will follow up.

**Rain Barrel Workshop:** The workshop was held via Zoom on 3/15. Fourteen people attended. The planned in-person workshop has been cancelled. BB will be sending directions on how to make a rain barrel to all workshop registrants and then will post the directions on our website.

**Mayors Monarch Pledge:** BB announced that Mayor Moffatt has signed and submitted the Pledge to the National Wildlife Foundation. BB will ensure that the announcement that PM drafted goes out to residents of CMPT. IN has secured a table at the Civic Club Bazaar and free milkweed plants will be handed out to residents that day. The timing of the distribution of the plants and whether they should go only to CMPT residents was discussed. The EC approved the purchase of untreated milkweed plants for up to \$450 from Cape Island nursery in West CM. Work is proceeding on all three action items outlined in the Pledge. BB will contact the Monarch Project to see if a butterfly kit is a good idea for a possible drawing gift at the Bazaar.

**EC Logo:** Logo #1 was approved, and BB will share the selected logo with the Commissioners.

## NEW BUSINESS

BB shared her concern about numerous invasive vines in the middle section of Circle Park. CB recommended that a subcommittee be formed to review the issue and make recommendations to improve the area. The subcommittee members (BB, SA, IN) will meet at Circle Park with CB and Chris Meyerink, Circle Park Bedfellows Coordinator. BB will send an email with possible dates/times.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** EG announced that people have expressed concerns regarding people in the dunes. EG suggested additional signs be placed at the beaches warning people to stay off the dunes. CB asked EG for a list of recommendations regarding placement of the signs. BB will add this issue to next month’s agenda. SA shared that Burke Motors in VM Courthouse has a recycling container that is available for public use in which they accept K-cups, candy wrappers, straws, and drink lids. SA also noted that the CM Garden Club plant sale is scheduled for May 8 at Rotary Park in CM. EO shared that the May issue of Consumer Reports has an excellent article entitled “*A Lush Lawn without Pesticides*”, which she will share with the EC.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** SA made a motion to move into the public portion of the meeting. PM seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Chris Meyerink offered to join the subcommittee tasked with looking at invasive plants in the Circle Park.

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

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.