

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Borough Hall
December 11, 2019

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:32 am

EC Members present:

(X) Sandy Allison

(X) Barb Bassett via telephone

(X) Catherine Busch, Chair

() Jamie Coren, Vice Chair

(X) Paula Massanari

(X) Commissioner Robert Mullock

(X) Isabelle Neary via telephone

(X) Emelia Oleson

Others present _____

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.

Minutes: On motion of EO, seconded by SA, the minutes of October 9, 2019, were approved.

Correspondence: None

Reports:

- **Lake Lily** – Commissioner Mullock was dissatisfied with the design of the rock wall and the quality and size of the rock delivered. He felt it should be redone with a concrete base and larger rocks, even if it has to be done inhouse. There was general discussion on possible solutions. BB expressed concern people will park on the grass strip around the park and snow plow hitting the sprinkler heads. SA suggested reflective markers at each sprinkler to warn snow plows. The landscaping is moving ahead, Mr. Mullock showed tags from plants that were delivered. PM reported Dick Saari agreed to leave the healthy living bushes on the west side, which he previously asked to remove. Friends of Lake Lily would like permission to put in the 6th bed previously proposed. The question of edging material, as previously discussed, still needed to be resolved but the group doesn't meet during the winter. There was general discussion about the proposed bed, existing beds, and how they would tie into the ongoing Borough project. There was discussion about the ongoing invasive plant removal project happening on the northern end of the lake and the impact that has had on the appearance of the lake. Commissioner Mullock wanted to be clear that the provisions of the contract governing the invasive plant removal must be met without interference from any party. Lastly, there was discussion about the third-party contract Friends of Lake Lily signed with Solitude Lake Management. Commissioner Mullock stated the Borough's attorney made it clear that such a contract is not legally binding, only the Borough has the right to enter contracts for public lands. PM, as member of EC and executive board of Friends of Lake Lily, was happy to transmit information between parties, but direction must come directly from the Borough. She also offered to sit down with both Mr. Mullock and Mr. Saari to help facilitate a resolution. After much discussion, the EC determined it would like to see the ongoing issues resolved before any new proposals are considered.

- **Triangle Park** – CB announced the Taxpayers Association funded a path through the butterfly garden portion of the park. She is still waiting for a quote from New Jersey Audubon for removing invasives in the rest of the park. She would like to consider applying for an ANJEC grant to restore the wooded area, but will come back with more information in the future.
- **Beach** – nothing new
- **Bike Path** – nothing new
- **Green Team** – didn't meet this month
- **Commissioner Liaison** – Commissioner Mullock reported the Lake Lily project is progressing nicely, aside from the issue with the wall, and the lake is teeming with wildlife and looking the best it has in years. The flood mitigation projects are coming along nicely. EO asked if the conduit from Lake Lily to Lighthouse Pond is manually operated. Mr. Mullock said it flows continually but he would like to see a pump installed at the park to protect the Point from a possible dune breach at the park. Currently, there is only one pump and it goes into the bay.
- **Planning Board** – CB reported there is one pending application. An EC subcommittee reviewed it the day before and found no environmental issues to address. CB will send a letter advising same. The Board is also proceeding slowly with Historic Preservation. They are also looking into lighting and containing it within property lines.

Old Business:

- Landscaping and Vegetation Ordinance & Tree Protection – approval of recommendations: CB provided an outline of what had been discussed previously. There was general discussion about enforcement and technicalities of that were not decisions within the EC's purview. The EC proposals must be reviewed by the Planning Board as well as the governing body. EO made a motion, seconded by PM, to adopt the draft cover letter and two charts of recommendations. CB will send it to the commissioners and meet with them individually before an ordinance is drafted.

New Business: Discussed during reports above.

Announcements: CB announced the watershed ambassador will conduct a beach cleanup at Sunset Beach on Jan 1st at 10:30 am. She also announced an upcoming Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative webinar with NJDEP. She believed the Mayor was speaking with Public Works about purchasing an electric beach vehicle, but not one that could go on the beaches. Manufacturing hasn't been able to meet that demand yet. CB reported on a Placemaking Initiative of the County Open Space Board. The purpose was to have uniformity throughout the county and to raise awareness of what Open Space has funded. Past and future projects can apply for sign funding. She will provide copies of information to any interested parties. IN asked if there was any update on St. Mary's. Commissioner Mullock advised there have been discussions with the sisters about making it an environmental center involving numerous organizations, but nothing has happened. It is still slated for demolition in 2022.

Public Portion: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by EO, seconded by SA.