

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 10, 2020

Start Time: 10:03

End Time: 11:13

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: See public portion.

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.

Minutes: On motion of SA, seconded by IN, the minutes of May 13, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None

REPORTS:

Lake Lily: Discussed 2 follow-up items requested by Commissioner Mullock and Friends of Lake Lily (FLL) at last meeting:

1. Osprey platform on island - Unfortunately, the location is not feasible according to Conserve Wildlife's Osprey Project and their preference for "allowing birds to nest on the ground and in dead trees, which is a natural progression to a more naturalized nesting without human intervention."
2. FLL west-side beds - CB & SA, in consultation with Chris Meyerink (FLL) recommended FLL proceed with additional seasonal plants and maintenance of their established beds as done in previous seasons using their landscaper. Agreed by all by consensus.

PM asked Commissioner Mullock if Public Works had tested the water quality recently in the lake. His response was 'no.' She asked a follow-up question: 'Has the water quality been tested at all during the year 2020?' The answer was no.

Triangle Park: see Old Business

Beach: American Oystercatcher nest on Brainard failed due to fox. Mullock reported the Coral Ave ADA ramp has been redone and sand on steps at other entrances being addressed. CB said that SA brought it to her attention that trees have been topped on Brainard Avenue beach entrance. Mullock said he and Bill Gibson confirmed it was on Borough dune property. Mullock gave Brady the information, and he will proceed with an investigation because it is an enforcement action (see more under Commissioner Liaison).

Bike Path: Nothing new.

Green Team: CB reported our application is moving forward with help from Edmund Grant, new administrator. He is gathering information on uncompleted actions that will help with recertification at the Bronze level.

Commissioner Liaison: Mullock asked for EC to endorse the Borough taking action regarding tree cutting on Brainard dune. SA noted a dumpster was present all winter at that location. SA moved, IN second, strongly stating the Borough take action against responsible party to the full extent of the law. Passed unanimously. The no cutting of vegetation ordinance on Borough property will be enforced.

Planning Board: CB said Planning Board discussed recommendations from Historic Committee. A Resolution will be done at next Planning Board Meeting to forward to Borough Commissioners. JG asked why this is part of Planning Board report. CB responded that she inherited the report format from previous liaison.

OLD BUSINESS:

ANJEC Open Space Grant application: CB reported our grant was rejected due to limited funds.

New Jersey Audubon Proposal - Invasive Plant Management at Triangle Park: CB proposed that the E.C. fund the project for the next three years starting on August 1, 2020. The first year expenditure would be \$1494.33. Motion made by CB and seconded by IN, and vote was unanimous in favor.

Plant labels for rain garden and Lake Lily south-end garden: CB reported waiting to order until after Edmund Grant is able to determine remaining funds. Will be purchased with Rain Garden grant funds from Sustainable Jersey.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recommendations for the SW edge of Lake Lily between Bulkhead Project and FLL landscape beds: CB and SA, in consultation with Chris Meyerink (FLL) recommended extending plantings from west edge of project to the juniper (similar to shrubs and perennials in current project), retaining the winterberry and other native shrubs, removal of invasive vines and prune the juniper and yew. Will have to wait until fall or next spring to plant. EO asked if English yew will remain there and just trimmed. CB said, Yes. Chris Meyerink said that removing any invasive plants near edge of Lake Lily will be done in the future. FLL funds are available to purchase plants. Motion to approve recommendations for 6th bed made by SA and seconded by JG was unanimous. Commissioner Mullock said Ray, Public Works' seasonal gardener will be maintain this area.

Backyard Compost Bins: CB reported they have all been given out. Motion to order 20 more Backyard Compost Bins made by PM, and seconded by IN, and vote in favor was unanimous.

Doug Tallamy's article, " Homegrown National Park" Submitted by EO; she would like support from the EC regarding the article. EO said the concept was to reduce lawn on property. EO asked, "How do we initiate or promote article". Commissioner Mullock said one way was to reach out to landscapers by giving them a handout. CB said it would be helpful to develop handouts and promotional materials. CB said that we could further discuss handouts/ promotional materials at our next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC PORTION: Dick Saari (FLL) had 2 questions:

1. How often will the water be tested for Lake Lily, and will the Borough be able to test the water and have the equipment? Mullock is having Public Works address this.
2. This question dealt with algae and Lake Lily. CB said to direct concerns about algae to Commissioner Mullock. CB also stated that the Borough is seeking an ecologically-based lake management plan. Mullock stated that he and the EC are responsible for the lake. EO inquired about replacing the rubber edging for the current FLL beds. CB said Bill Gibson was consulted, and he said that it is easier to maintain with no edging.

Mary Kelly said that the new path around Lake Lily is being used by scooters and bikes. Her suggestion was that they not be allowed there. CB said the path is for pedestrians and ADA access only, and there should be no walking in the garden. Will ask Edmund Grant about putting up a sign. CB also said a bike rack is needed there.

Mary Kelly also asked if the EC's recommendations for revising the Landscape Ordinance be released to the public. CB said it is her understanding the recommendations to the Borough Commissioners are considered a work product, not a public document. She will verify this with the Borough Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT: CB asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by SA and seconded by PM.