

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 18, 2020 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:02 am

End Time: 11:13 am

EC Members present (meeting held via Zoom):

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) Barb Bassett

(x) Commissioner Robert Mullock

(x) Catherine Busch, Chair

(x) Isabelle Neary

() Jamie Goren, Vice Chair

(x) Emelia Oleson

Others present: Dick Saari, Mary Kelly

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: Approval of minutes from 10/14/2020- PM made a motion to approve the minutes; SA seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None

Reports

Lake Lily: 1. PM reported the Friends of Lake Lily (FLL) have contacted Solitude Lake Management about water testing four times (once this winter, April, July & Sept 2021). CB suggested also contacting Garden State which the Borough uses for water quality testing. RM provided the contact number for Garden State. 2. CB and SA reported on their inspection of the new south lake plantings. None appear to be completely dead, recommend waiting until spring to see what new growth is like before replacing any. Also suggest adding additional native trees and shrubs next year—Sweetbay Magnolia, Winterberry and possibly Sassafras. Need to address irrigation, frequency and salt content may affect plantings success. Additional plants need to be salt-tolerant. Decided to wait until spring to install plant labels.

Triangle Park: CB shared progress report sent by Steven Garcia, NJA on invasive removal: Close to half of the trees have had their vines treated; the phragmites with the park has been foliar sprayed and has responded all to treatment; large Privet and Autumn Olive have been removed; invasive treatment of Mugwort and Multiflora Rose, and will foliar spray English Ivy when conditions are right.

Beach: RM discussed recent storm shows importance of dunes and trees stopping sand from blowing off beach to town. Would like to determine optimal height of dunes as some are getting quite high; also need to plant more trees and shrubs that will survive other than Japanese Black Pine. EC will develop list of trees for secondary dune areas. Beach replenishment will be taking place soon through backpass by trucks. Some beaches will be closed during operation.

Green Team: Final deadline for recertification application Nov. 22.

Commissioner Liaison: RM reported on status of Bamboo Ordinance and Prohibition of Swimming Pools (both passed) and ordinance to regulate existing pools was tabled. Asked if any plans for unspent funds in EC budget and to start thinking about next year's budget. Items for budget include Triangle Park project, Stu Farrell's annual survey. General discussion ensued re possible rain barrel workshop next year in collaboration with Watershed Ambassador. EO will seek more info.

Planning Board: Nothing new to report.

Old Business

Spotted Lantern Fly: BB and PM reported on findings via Powerpoint screen share (attached). Discussed removing Tree of Heaven from Borough land (refer to ERI for locations). BB offered to ID and assist Public Works in the removal. Plan a series of articles and information for homeowners.

Preventing Bird Collisions during Migration: No update.

New Business:

Bottle Cap Recycling: EO reported on contact with the Mission Inn which has been collecting caps. It takes 100,000 to make one bench. Would need to be collected and sorted. More discussion next month - see link: <https://www.greentreeplastics.com/abc-program/>

Announcements

BB - West Cape May's EC has an Invasive Species brochure and will share with us - discussed on number to request. CB - general comment re Borough election results. RM - thanked EC members for their hard work.

Public Portion - BB motion, PM second

Dick Saari (FLL) - 1. Does Borough use salt on roads in winter, RM responded with info about products used by CMP and by County. 2. Could irrigation at lake be connected to public water with meter for FLL to pay? RM responded with reason for shallow wells for irrigation. CB asked about depth of well (20-30 feet) and suggested we keep an eye on salt water intrusion and possible affect on groundwater and trees. 3. Donation to FLL by Reilly family of \$1800 for island - move ahead? CB clarified had discussed possible invasive removal and replanting with natives. FLL seeking quote from Matt Notch. Discussion by EC members about possible involvement by NJA. No decision made.

Mary Kelly - Interested in Lights Out Project to protect migrating birds and expressed her concern about proliferation of lighted signs in front of houses. CB suggested follow-up with Planning Board, and EC may do education about lighting's affects on migrating birds and other wildlife.

Adjournment - BB motion, PM second