

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 14, 2020 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:03 am

End Time: 11:57 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: Mary Kelly, Chris Meyerink, Loretta Pregartner, Watershed Ambassador

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 9/9/2020- PM made a motion to approve the minutes; SA seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: None

Reports:

- Lake Lily—1. The Friends of Lake Lily (FLL) is working with the New Jersey Audubon (NJA) on an additional three years of invasive vine removal. The Borough will be asked to sign the three year contract, as well. 2. The FLL has offered to pay for an interim month-to-month contract for water sampling from the lake until such time as the Borough procures a company to complete a comprehensive plan for managing the lake. The FLL, the EC and the Borough would receive copies of the water sample results. RM indicated he would send to PM contact information for the company that samples the drinking water for CMPT. IN questioned why the Borough is not sampling the water in the lake. RM would prefer for FLL to pay for this service. CB will send a list to PM outlining what the company should test for (e.g., chemicals, fertilizer, salt, coliform, etc.). CB asked RM if the actions that were discussed in last month's EC meeting have been completed; i.e., Ed Grant, Borough Administrator was to have contacted the new grant writer regarding a grant to help cover the cost of a comprehensive lake management plan, as well as contacting the FLL to solicit monetary support for the contract. Neither of those actions have taken place.
- Triangle Park — An employee of NJA has started invasive plant removal and is letting Public Works know when he'll be working. He is following the same removal practice used around the lake. It is hoped that a demonstration showing residents how to remove invasive plants may be developed using the work at Triangle Park. As a part of Dune Day, volunteers planted in the butterfly section at Triangle Park. Plants will be left standing over the winter to benefit wildlife.
- Beach—Commissioner Mullock reported that there will be beach replenishment late this year. No date has been set; bids are still being sought.

- Bike Path—nothing new to report.
- Green Team—had a table set up at Dune Day and distributed dunks and literature. Also, Ed Grant, Mike Neary and CB met to discuss submitting the Green Team recertification application by Nov. 22. We have already earned 190 points; perhaps the EC could reach “silver level” certification in the future.
- Commissioner Liaison—RM met with Ed Grant and Jim Rutala to discuss a grant for solar panels to run the Borough pumping station. Also, the Borough is looking into a new Public Works building to enable it to withstand category 4-5 hurricane so that the building could be used in an emergency.
- Planning Board-nothing new to report.

Old Business: plant labels arrived and will be placed at the south end of the lake around the new bulkhead. The FLL is waiting to hear about their request to put in a sixth flower bed on the west side of the lake. CB has contacted the Wildlife Gardener, but her calls have not been returned. No work can proceed until her call is returned.

The FLL was asked to make a monetary donation to replace dead plants near the bulkhead. CB is waiting to hear from the Wildlife Gardener about this project, as well. Some ordered plants were substituted when the planting took place last spring. Some plants may be negatively impacted by the salinity in the water used by the sprinkling system.

PM asked if any of the dead plants were covered under a warranty. RM said “yes.” A lengthy discussion followed. It was decided that CB and SA would identify which plants had died and would send a list to RM for his use in following up regarding the warranty. RM would like replacement plants to benefit monarch butterflies. SA expressed concern that action be taken quickly to replace plants covered under warranty.

New Business:

Spotted Lantern Fly arrives in Cape May County--A spotted lantern fly (SLF) was found at the State Park. CB would like the EC to inform residents about how to fight the SLF. BB and PM will work together to develop some educational information to share with residents. CB questioned whether the Tree of Heaven in the dunes should be inspected for SLF larvae.

Preventing bird collisions during migration--This was the beginning of an EC conversation on this topic. EO wondered if contractors and residents should be made aware of how to minimize bird strikes. It was agreed to have further discussion in the future.

Announcements

SA is concerned that the new, proposed ordinance regarding pools does not address monitoring/inspecting existing pools. CB suggested she share her concerns at the public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance. BB asked about standing water on a property on Princeton. Borough guidelines are being followed, according to Chris Meyerink (see Public Portion, below).

Public Portion—SA made a motion to move into the public portion of the meeting. BB seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Loretta Pregartner, Watershed Ambassador, is impressed by the level of EC involvement in the community. She is available to help with future trainings regarding the use of rain barrels, etc.

Chris Meyerink has already inspected the property on Princeton Avenue, and it is up to code.

Adjournment-PM made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and to adjourn the meeting. BB seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.