

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 9, 2021 – 10 am

Start Time 10:22

End Time 12:00

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

() Carol Sowers

Others present _____

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: The minutes from May 12, 2021, were unanimously approved after a motion by PM and seconded by SA

Reports:

- **Lake Lily:** CB reported that she is waiting for the Lake Lily water to rise to an adequate depth to allow the use of a boat to evaluate the plants on the Island. The Island is severely overgrown so it will be challenging to get to the interior. There is discussion on the addition of a 6th bed. There are extensive invasives in that area, and the addition of the 6th bed may need to be postponed until the Fall. CB reported that additional plants were added around the Lake. However, native plants have remained difficult to get which will necessitate waiting until the Fall to finish the plantings. CB will be adding plant labels to identify the plants around the Lake. Clean-Flo is due to return for the 2nd treatment for water and muck.
- **Triangle Park:** Nothing new to report.
- **Beach:** CB reported that the “Restricted Dune Area” signs have been ordered for the beach side of the dunes. They are expected to be installed this month. The Beach report was disseminated to EC members. This survey is done on a yearly basis.
- **Green Team:** BB will disseminate to the EC members information on defining an innovative project. There was discussion on how to create educational opportunities that would allow for the accumulation of Green Team points.
- **Commissioner Liaison:** CB issued an announcement on the status of the Yale Avenue water pipe product. The project is nearing completion. The Commissioners will be voting on an amendment to the Bamboo Ordinance at the June 10, 2021 meeting.
- **Planning Board:** April Meeting minutes have been published. The next meeting is June 16th.

Old Business:

- **Mayor’s Monarch Pledge:** IN and PM reported on progress made on the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. In terms of Communication, 6 of the Action Pledge Items have been completed:
 - Item 1: Issue a proclamation to raise awareness.
 - Item 2: Launch a communication effort to encourage the planting of milkweed.

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.

- Item 3: Communicate with local garden groups to encourage planting of milkweed and nectar producing plants.
- Item 10: Host a native plant giveaway.
- Item 12: Plant and maintain a monarch demonstration garden.
- Item 20: Continue an invasive species removal program.

Item 14 was discussed concerning planting milkweed in public rights-of-way but was determined not to be feasible.

Regarding the give-away of milkweed plants PM noted that there were still 12 available. There was discussion on the status of the landscaping ordinance and whether it could include required percentage of native plants. CB reported that she is currently working with the Borough Attorney on the Ordinance. It is not yet at a point to make a recommendation. CB noted that the EC recommendations did not include percentage of native plants.

BB suggested that the EC consider approaches to education on the proper use of pesticides. BB will look for educational materials to share with the EC at the next meeting.

- **Invasives at the Pavilion Circle:** The long-term vision is for the EC to sponsor a demonstration garden at the overgrown bed on the circle. The first step is the removal of the Invasive plants. It was agreed that volunteers from the EC will meet with Public Works on June 23 at 8 am at the bed to begin the removal process. BB will send a notice to Chris Meyerink advising him of the activity and extending an invitation to bedfellows who may wish to volunteer. All volunteers will need to sign a Hold Harmless agreement.
- **Spotted Lantern Fly:** The article on identification of the nymph “instars” was published. Another article on “hitchhikers” will be prepared for the July/August timeframe.

New Business: None

Announcements:

CB advised that some of the Bradford Pears along the center walkway of Pavilion Circle will be removed and replaced with Oak and other native species.

SA requested permission to update the kiosk at Alexander. The EC agreed that she should proceed. CB will inquire about the kiosk at St Pete’s and give someone on the EC access.

EO inquired if anyone had heard if Cape May Point had received their Salem Oak seedling. The answer was negative. She will contact Mayor Moffat.

Public Portion

No public attendees

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by CB and seconded by PM.

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