

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 13, 2021 – 10 am

Start Time 10:02 am

End Time 11:50 am

EC Members present:

(X) Sandy Allison

(X) Paula Massanari

(X) Barb Bassett, Chair

(-) 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 September 8, 2021 were unanimously approved after a motion by PM and seconded by EO.

Reports:

- **Lake Lily:** The algae bloom was discovered in the Lake in September has disappeared. CB has not received any results from the DEP testing.
- **Triangle Park:** CB and Dustin Welch worked in Triangle Park during Dunes and More Day. They transplanted bayberries to the Coral Ave side and removed some invasives. The Schul family has been helping to maintain Triangle Park butterfly garden in memory of their parents. Next year CB will coordinate the borough seasonal gardener to assist them. Dustin Welch is developing a maintenance plan.
- **Beach:** The “Restricted Dune Area Signs” along the Alexander Ave dune area was discussed. It was determined that the signs may have been placed by either Lower Township or the NJ DEP. The next step will be to review the area to see if signs should be added from a borough perspective. EG attended Dune Day and discussed the dunes with Jonathan Wescott. EG volunteered to work with JW and CB on a long-term plan for the dunes, especially in key areas. CB is researching a community forestry plan for the borough. There are grants available from NJ for certified arborists to assist with the plan. This also includes street trees. BB will work with CB and Public Works on the Trees of Heaven. The Fall is the time to treat these invasive trees as the sap is pulled into the root system for the winter. If treated in the Spring, these trees send out even more shoots and a chemical into the soil which kills other plants. PM distributed an article about a fungus that may kill the Tree of Heaven.
- **Commissioner Liaison:** The amended Landscape Ordinance, originally recommended to the Commissioners by the EC, will be discussed at the October 14th Commissioners’ Meeting. It was noted that the list of native and invasive plants was missing from the website. [Afterwards, Elaine Wallace posted the list to the EC section of the website.] As part of the Yale Ave project, certain sidewalks are being removed. They will be replaced with grass or plants, provided they are low enough to keep sight lines. As part of the Yale Avenue repaving, 12 storm drains will be replaced. These storm drains are old and need of repair.
- **Planning Board:** The application for 310 Stites Ave was discussed at the last Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board discussed and developed notes concerning the updated Landscape Ordinance. An update will be relayed after the next Planning Board Meeting.

Old Business:

- **Invasives at the Pavilion Circle:** An additional volunteer work session occurred on October 2 to continue work on the Horseshoe bed. The activity specifically focused on pulling English ivy from the bed. Another work session will be held on October 18th. BB will provide coffee, juice, and breakfast

items. The plan for the bed is to transform it slowly into a demonstration garden. Public Works will be assisting in the Fall/Winter. This timing was planned earlier in the year.

- **Mayor's Monarch Pledge:** PM received many photos of monarchs from residents. These will be assembled into a slide show to become part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Section of the Environmental Committee webpage. As part of the MMP, Mark Garland, Monarch Monitoring Project, will be speaking at the October 14th Civic Club meeting.

New Business: An Invasive Plant presentation will be given via Zoom by Dr. Van Clef, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space [FoHVOS] Stewardship Director and NJ Invasive Species Strike Team Program Director. He will be discussing bamboo. This is an open meeting with no need to pre-register. Questions for Dr. Van Clef are due to the EC by Friday October 15th. To date, only a question concerning registration have been received.

Announcements: None

Public Portion: No comments.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by PM and seconded by EO. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.