

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 8, 2021 – 10 am

Start Time 10:00

End Time 11:02

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 : Michael Bookman

### 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 August 11, 2021 were unanimously approved after a motion by PM and seconded by AO

### **Reports:**

- **Lake Lily:** An algae bloom was discovered in the Lake. There was a concern that the algal bloom was harmful particularly due to its foul smell. The DEP was called, and samples were taken. At the time of the meeting, no results were available. CB reviewed the situation with the experts at Clean-Flo. They recommended that the level of the lake be raised. There was a possibility that the recent rain events caused a rush of nutrients to enter the lake to cause a bloom. Water was pumped into the Lake for a 3-day period and the algae bloom appears to have subsided. It is possible that the algae bloom was caused by the lowering of the Lake due to the Yale Ave project. CB advised that we may consider four treatments to the Lake instead of the three that were done this year. This algae bloom occurred one month after the last treatment. CB will discuss that option with the Friends of Lake Lily. PM advised that the Friends of Lake Lily are offering to plant trees to provide shade at the southern end of the Lake. CB advises that Black Gum be considered, as it is locally native and is a species that turns a brilliant red in the Fall which will add color. This will be discussed and finalized with the Friends of Lake Lily. CB advised that she is trying to add additional plants to the Southern end of the Lake, but it is highly dependent on availability.
- **Triangle Park:** An educational program on invasive species was held by the Audubon on August 25, 2021. BB will post the educational materials from that Workshop on the Borough website for easy access. There are clear instructions on how to manage invasive species.
- **Beach:** SA commented that there may be a need for additional “Restricted Dune Area Signs” around Alexander Ave. There was concern about the area to the right of the path, which may be State Park or Lower Township. CB and BB will look at the area.
- **Commissioner Liaison:** A letter has been sent to Yale Avenue residents providing an update on the repaving project. Specifications have been finalized with the Borough Engineer and will be put out to bid. Work is expected to commence in November. Consistent with the Boroughs 10-year masterplan, Public Works will remove concrete sidewalks and curbing from the area, except for the sidewalk in front of the Post Office and Firehouse. CB reports that a total of \$ 100k was saved with this plan. CB advised that the Borough had sent out an alert on Hurricane Preparation. It was also suggested that the EC may take up the issue of Climate Resiliency as a future project.
- **Planning Board:** The application for 310 Stites Ave was discussed. The EC had no issues with the application from an environmental perspective; however, the applicants will be asked to clarify that the Oak tree in the front yard will remain. Caution on the use of heavy equipment to avoid undue tree damage will be noted. The Planning Board will also review the proposed Landscaping Ordinance for conformity to the Master Plan. The revised Ordinance is posted on the website.

**Old Business:**

- **Invasives at the Pavilion Circle:** An additional volunteer work session was scheduled for October 2 (8 to 10:00 am) to continue work on the Horseshoe bed. The activity is specifically focused on pulling the ivy from the bed.
- **Mayor's Monarch Pledge:** A request will be made to send pictures of Monarchs to Paula Massanari. These pictures will be assembled into a slide show to become part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Section of the Environmental Committee webpage. This activity adds to the actions taken to fulfill the Pledge. The Information Poster on planting pollinator friendly plants has been posted on the kiosks around the Borough and has been posted on the website.

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Public Portion**

Michael Bookman who has a property on Stites Ave expressed concern on the spread of Bamboo and Alianthus onto his property from an adjacent property. He noted a concern relative to the enforcement of the Ordinance on the removal of the bamboo. BB noted that the removal of bamboo is difficult and may require years of removal activity. BB is looking to add additional information on the removal of bamboo on the website.

**Adjournment** A motion to adjourn was made by PM and seconded by EO. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am