

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### November 9, 2022 MINUTES

Start Time: 10:04 am

End Time: 11:17 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Peg Fratz

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) Isabelle Neary

(x) Emelia Oleson

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.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of SA, seconded by IN, the minutes of October 12, 2022 were approved.

### ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Pavilion Circle [EG/BB]:
  - Plantings have done very well and will be watered until the start of winter. We added two additional groundsel plants close to the fire pole that were acquired from the nature center. We are now working on removing invasive species, cutting the vines so that they die over the winter, allowing us to check the health of the trees underneath. We also planted daylilies donated by Cathy Stambaugh in the cedar bed.
  - CB set up a private group on Nextdoor for Cape May Point open space volunteers to help coordinate their efforts. She has made EG the co-administrator. This isn't an official Borough group, this is just for neighbors who want to volunteer. If people want to participate they can create an account and request to join.
  - IN wrote an article and provided pictures of the work done in Pavilion Circle in support of the MMP. This was shared with the community through the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association Bulletin and the Borough email newsletters.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge [PM/IN]: action items update, slide show
  - PM stated that the final report was due December 1, and within a few hours we received confirmation that it was approved. You can see the completed report by clicking [here](#). We can download the certificate and our achievement to share with the community.
  - IN and PM are retiring from the MMP, so if we want to do this effort again next year we need two volunteers. BB will help, but she needs two individuals to support the bulk of the work. PM offered to talk to anyone who is interested about what the commitment looks like.
- Commissioner Liaison: [CB]
  - Public Works (PW) is doing work today in Triangle Park where some cedar trees have died. She shared a photo of the cross section of a cedar tree trunk that showed holes inside that could possibly be due to rot or insect damage. Triangle Park is delineated as wetlands, which may be a contributing factor. Rather than replant cedar trees we will be planting some bushes there instead.

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- CB spoke with the steward for the Audubon Society (Brittany Welch) who is reviewing the project, grants and work they have been doing in Triangle Park in the last year. She will be preparing a report for us which CB will share with the EC. CB and Brittany also discussed how to create better channels of communication and sharing of information.
  - Japanese black pines have continued to die in various locations around the Point. We will keep an eye on them as long as they are green, and deal with them as we have to.
  - Yesterday public works put in the new bike racks at the lake. The doggie bags and trash can were moved down a bit to make room. The hoop bike racks are what they use in Cape May; they keep bikes from falling over because there are two points of contact.
  - There has been some concern over water quality because of what was printed in the paper recently. We test the water in the Point on a regular basis, and we have no dangerous levels of lead or copper.
  - We continue to work on the problem of people stepping on the flower beds around the lake. SA shared that she visited Longwood Garden and has examples of how they attempt to keep people from stepping on flower beds and killing the flowers with signs and fencing.
- Green Team [BB/CB]
    - BB provided a Green Team update. All of our recent activities have been falling under Community Education and Outreach.
    - We are deferring guided nature walks to next year; BB requested that someone work with her on it. SA suggested that she do one for Lake Lily, Pavilion Circle and Triangle Park. CB suggested late spring when the pollinator plants start growing and it can be tied into iNaturalist which gathers digital observations from users. CB offered to do the Lake Lily walk.
    - SNJ deadlines are in February, May and July. You can start adding items early in the year to receive feedback before the final submission in July.
      - PM will take care of creating documentation for the MMP in support of SNJ.
      - Tiger mosquitoes were addressed during Dune Day, where the EC gave out mosquito dunks and spoke about them to residents. This is another activity that can be counted.
      - CB said some of her projects may count, depends on timing.
  - Planning Board [BB]: Application for 621 Lighthouse Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Permit by Certification #8
    - This communication from ACT Engineers is in regards to a house that will be demolished and replaced with a different house. The back of the lot is delineated as wetlands. The application is available for review at Borough Hall.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- BB shared with a group a photo of a Sea Grant sign that EG saw in Town Bank that educates people about why they should keep off of the dunes. CB said she will check to see if the signs are still available. Last year EG did an inventory of dune signs, and we recently added even more. BB will add this to the agenda for December as a follow up.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- SA shared that tomorrow the Civic Club is hosting a speaker from the Cape May County Zoo at 12:00.
- SA also shared that the day after Thanksgiving the Garden Club is selling fresh green wreaths at convention hall.
- CB shared that we have purchased a limited amount of the book Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas which will be used a field guide by members of the EC and the open space volunteers who support the community.

### **PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of PM, seconded by SA, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, BB made the motion to adjourn at 11:16 AM. This was seconded by PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk