

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 14, 2022 MINUTES

Start Time: 10:05 am

End Time: 10:56 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

() Peg Fraatz

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Paula Massanari

() 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 PM, seconded by EG, the minutes of November 9, 2022 were approved.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- Pavilion Circle
 - We are pausing volunteer work on Pavilion Circle until March. CB and EG had marked trees to be taken down by Public Works (PW), which they are doing today.
 - BB appreciates everyone who has devoted their time to the work in Pavilion Circle.
 - EG stated that there are ten Tree of Heaven plants on Crystal Avenue that PW may want to consider removing because of how invasive they are.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge
 - BB is still looking for volunteers for the MMP. The group discussed that we would do these items that support the pledge regardless of whether we take the time to upload the actions to the NWF web page.
 - PM noted that many of the action items are geared to a larger community making it more difficult to find items to fit our community. One of the benefits to the program was that it increased public awareness of the monarchs and pollinator preservation.
 - BB plans to follow up with Mayor Moffatt to discuss his perspective on the effort.
- MISC
 - EG said that she recently read that West Cape May is looking at the harmful use of pesticides and considering banning them. SA said she also saw this in the paper and that Cape May is looking at invasive plants.
 - CB recalls a number of years ago the EC approached the Borough about banning the use of pesticides but they were not able to make progress because of state regulations. BB will research what neighboring towns are doing and add it as a follow-up topic for next month.
- Commissioner Liaison
 - CB has found a company that we will contact to do the community tree management plan - Heartwood Ecological Consulting NJ. This consultant is a better fit for Cape May Point than the first consultant we were speaking with. The contract is being reviewed by our solicitor and

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there will be a resolution at next week's Borough Work Session. We expect the plan to be completed by June.

- As part of the plan CB will be asking the consultant if the annual spraying of the trees in Pavilion Circle is necessary. They believe it was neem oil being used to help with white scales on the trees. EG agrees we need a second opinion.
- CB put an article on Japanese black pines in the latest newsletter of the CMPTA. Whether or not we should cut down dead pine (or other) trees in the dunes will be determined by the community tree management plan.
- CB reengaged with NJ Audubon and our new contact Brittany Welch to discuss an updated work plan for Triangle Park and the Lake. Last week CB, Bill Gibson (BG) and staff from NJ Audubon walked the lake together to determine what activities should be done since this will be the final year in our current contract with them.
 - It was determined that they should not disturb plantings 10-15 feet from the water's edge to support wildlife, but they will remove invasive plants if they are easy to get to.
 - We will not be addressing phragmites this year because they were unable to get a permit.
 - This winter you will see changes around Lake Lily and Triangle Park as the work continues.
- Green Team
 - The reporting cycle for SNJ has moved earlier in the year, and the first deadline is in February. The due dates are now February 26, May 12, and July 27, 2023. The annual awards ceremony is in November. If a town wants a one-year extension to help them comply with the change, this will be allowed this one time only. KR will help upload everything.
 - It appears as if CMP has enough points for recertification, however there is no longer a significant buffer, in case some are not accepted.
 - CB put together a list, and she and BB are talking about setting up a nature walk in January because of how many different ducks will be at the lake.
 - CB said she doesn't think we can use the compost program again because we haven't been successful in getting more backyard composting units.
- Planning Board
 - There is no Planning Board meeting during the month of December.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- PM asked of the donation received from the Warren Garden Club was designated specifically for the MMP. The money actually goes into the Borough's non-profit Environmental Trust Fund and it was given 'in honor of' the work done with the MMP.
- SA mailed CB a document with ideas for the EC's Salem Oak Tree.
- PM said that she picked up Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas at the Borough and she thanked CB for providing them to the EC members.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of EO, seconded by PM, the meeting was opened to the public. Chris Meyerink stated that there were changes within the leadership of the Friends of Lake Lily, but nothing official has been announced yet.

When no one else wished to speak, PM made the motion to adjourn at 10:56 AM. This was seconded by SA.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk