

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 9, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:35 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

(x) Carol Sowers

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 EG, seconded by PM, the minutes of January 12, 2022 were approved.

### **REPORTS:**

- Lake Lily: [BB] CB stated that Princeton Hydro has alerted the Borough of a funding opportunity through the state for a lake/watershed management plan which they will help support the preparation of. CB requested a letter of support from the EC to which BB confirmed the EC will provide one. CB will also be requesting letters from the Borough Mayor, New Jersey Audubon and the Nature Conservancy. Letters are due by the end of the month.
- Triangle Park: [BB] Nothing new to report.
- Beach: [BB] The Marine Mammal Stranding Center signs are now hanging at Coral and Alexander beaches. CB confirmed these will be seasonally posted. EG stated the recent blizzard repositioned sand at certain beach entrances; CB said Public Works will place priority on moving sand that blocks emergency access to the beach.
- Green Team: [BB] BB presented an overview of the Green Team activities that support the Sustainable New Jersey (SNJ) Bronze Certification. These activities are now the collective responsibility of the EC. Topics of discussion included:
  - SNJ expires December 2023; recertification due May 2023 providing a window of opportunity for questions and clarification of activities.
  - We need at least 150 points for Bronze status, but we aim to do more. Last certification the team submitted 220 points. Silver status requires significantly more points.
  - There are both required and optional activities spread across 18 categories; we are required to do something in at least 6 of those categories.
  - CB stated that even though this is an EC effort other departments within the Borough would support these actions.
  - CB shared prior Green Team work related to backyard composting and the distribution of Geobins. These bins are available at a competitive price through Home Depot, and she asked if the EC would consider supporting this again. SA made a motion to purchase 20 bins at \$39.00 which was seconded by PM. All were in favor; non opposed. Catherine will turn this effort over to Public Works, where members of the community sign a pledge when they pick up their bin. Similar to last time, there will be instructions available on proper use of the bin.
  - BB will be sending the team a link so that they may log in and review the Borough's dashboard to view other past activities.
- Commissioner Liaison: [CB]
  - CB reported she and others in the Borough have been meeting with our new engineer and grants consultants.
  - The borough has had several properties with broken water lines to outside showers that were not drained.

- The first draft of the budget will be discussed Thursday night at the Borough's regular meeting. CB thinks we will have adequate funds for the EC and GT.
- The Borough has taken the first steps towards investigating a community forestry plan certification. It isn't a great expense and there are funds available from the state to help pay for the program. There is a low-cost training session available that could be attended by interested EC members to learn more about the program.
- Planning Board: [BB] There is a PB application that requires review which she has sent to the members of the EC, along with the request that everyone submit comments to her by Tuesday, February 15. CB stated that commenting on the plans is also a Green Team action. The timing of the applications does not always allow us to discuss them at our meetings.

### **ON-GOING BUSINESS**

- Invasive Plants in Pavilion Circle: [EG] EG recognized Public Works for the work completed in Pavilion Circle. Bed C2 has been cleared and while we weren't planning on planting anything there we may want to consider grasses. There is still one bad section to be cleared so when everyone is back in town and the weather cooperates EG will organize the effort. BB thanked everyone for their work. PM will be drafting a note from the EC to PW thanking them for their efforts.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge: [PM/IN/BB] We completed one of the four actions we committed to by having the mayor sign the pledge. We will once again give out a plan to members of the community; PM asked that the EC consider what they would recommend the plant. EC members should send an email to PM and IN in the next two weeks.
- PW continues to work on removal of invasive species (i.e. tree of heaven, Bradford pear and autumn olive). The EC may consider an article or feature on the website to educate residents on why these are being removed.
- PM has written three articles that the EC may use in its communications related to natural mosquito control, native plants/shrubs/trees that support insects and birds, and dedicating half of backyard space to plantings. BB will share these with the remainder of the EC team.
- The long-awaited Salem Oak Seedling will be picked up by BB on March 31. It will be planted in Pavilion Circle in a protected (fenced) area with signage. EC will look into incorporating the announcement into Arbor Day in April.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None reported.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Informational - Atlantic City Electric is continuing to do substation work in Cape May. There is an osprey nest being relocated behind Swains because of this work.
- Informational – Announcement of the upcoming Cape Island Ocean Festival.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None reported.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

On motion of EG, seconded by SE, the meeting was opened to the public. There were no comments or questions.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

PM made the motion to adjourn at 11:35 AM. This was seconded by EO.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk