

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 13, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:09 am

End Time: 11:46 am

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

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 PM, the minutes of March 9, 2022 were approved.

### **REPORTS:**

- Lake Lily: CB stated that there is no update on the grant through the state for the lake/watershed management plan. There is an algae bloom on the south end of the lake. Bubblers were turned on yesterday.
- Triangle Park: [BB] Nothing new to report.
- Beach: [BB] New Jersey Audubon Cape May Observatory Springwatch is occurs from March 1st until last day in May, beginning at sunrise and ending a minimum of 4 hours later. Meanwhile, more seals have been seen resting on our beaches and those participating in Springwatch have noticed some people getting too close to the seals. CB said that if anyone notices people getting too close to call the Borough and we will send someone to remind them to stay at least 150 feet away.
- Green Team: [BB] Nothing new to report.
- Commissioner Liaison: [CB]
  - The Yale resurfacing project is moving along as planned with dewatering and the replacement of storm drains. Yale Avenue property owners received letters informing them of the work.
  - CB met with a tree expert to discuss the forestry plan for pavilion circle. He is recommending that trees be fertilized but we do not know if we have money in the budget this year.
- Planning Board: [BB] Next Meeting is 4/20/22; we have not received any applications for review.

### **ON-GOING BUSINESS**

- Invasive Plants in Pavilion Circle: [EG]
  - EG, CB, PM and BB met over a month ago to review, and Elise created a drawing which was shared with the group.
  - The group discussed available irrigation and the possibility that new trees would have watering bags that volunteers would need to fill.
  - CB advised the group that they should set the budget and determine the order of trees and bushes based on funds available.

- The Borough purchases wholesale from Tuckahoe Nurseries; members of the EC could make calls to other nurseries if they want to compare prices.
- EG is looking for the commission's support to move forward with planting. The group unanimously agreed that the planting can begin.
- Based on the discussion, the EC decided they may be spending between \$1000-\$1500 to complete this section of Pavilion Circle.
- BB will provide CB a list of what the group wishes to purchase, who stated that she is letting it up to the EC members to gather together and organize the planting.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge: [PM/IN/BB]
  - IN and PM conducted a Mayor's Monarch Pledge plant giveaway cost comparison, which was shared with the EC.
  - They reviewed four possible plants across three nurseries, and found that the cost would be \$1000-\$1500 which exceeds the proposed budget of \$400.
  - IN stated that we should either raise the budget or abandon the idea and focus on a different activity to meet the pledge requirements.
  - BB posed the question to the EC and it was unanimously decided that there will not be a plant giveaway in 2022.
  - BB suggested that the group look into The Xerces Society pollinator kits which are available to northeast project partners. PM offered to complete the application and submit on behalf of the EC before April 29, 2022.
- PM created continues to work on articles for both the Borough website/email newsletters and the Cape May Point Taxpayer Association. The following will be launched through the borough email newsletters which may count towards the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and other Green Team actions.
  - We will be immediately sending out **Lights Out Cape May Point** and posting it on the website. SA will pick up the posters at the Borough office to hang in public places within Cape May Point. This effort encourages people to turn out their outdoor lights during specific migration periods for birds.
  - Before May 5: NJ Plastic Bags Ban
  - Later in May: Native Plants
- The Salem Oak Seedling was planted in a container by CB; BB is going to keep it in her yard and requested that others help water it, which EG agreed to do.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- [BB] CB and EG recently completed training through the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program, authorized by the NJ Shade Tree Commission to assist local governments to establish forestry programs.

- As described on the shared summary, the value of a Forestry Program includes liability protection, access to grants and expertise, Green Team SNJ action points, and a sustaining plan for tree and shrub assets
- Requirements include 2 individuals certified in core training, an approved 5-year plan, annual updates and 8 CEUs which can be accumulated by no less than 2 individuals in the community.
- The grants available could help support the EC in hiring an expert to assist in the forestry plan and to help fund future plantings.
- The group unanimously agreed to have BB email the Borough Commissioners and request they take the forestry plan under consideration.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- SA announced that the Cape May Point Civic Club is hosting a meeting at 12:30 on May 12 where Atlantic City Electric will be presenting.
- SA also announced that Saturday, May 14 the Garden Club of Cape May is hosting their Flower Show at Convention Hall in Cape May from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

#### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

On motion of PM, seconded by IN, the meeting was opened to the public.

- Chris Meyerink shared that the Tax Payers Association has some funds available to help support planting or spraying in public locations. CB asked that they discuss this topic in more depth to ensure the Tax Payers Association isn't conducting work that should be managed by the Public Works Department.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

IS made the motion to adjourn at 11:46 AM. This was seconded by PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk