

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 3, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:52 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Isabelle Neary

(x) Peg Fratz

(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 July 13, 2022 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Review of Updated Dune Day Plan: CB stated that the Borough Commissioner's approved the updated plan. BB shared that Jonathan won't be here for Dune Day so there will need to be discussion with him prior to the event. It was decided that the CMP Taxpayers' Association who is running the event will meet with him prior, which EG offered to coordinate.
- Pavilion Circle: BB shared before and after photos of Pavilion Circle. EG thanked everyone who worked together to make this possible. After a detailed discussion regarding what types of plants should be purchased, the finalized list includes oak leaf hydrangea, arrowwood viburnum, beach plum, black cherry, black elderberry, eastern red cedar, red chokeberry, sweet pepperbush, winterberry, sedums, sassafras and ferns. BB will tally up the cost of the suggested plants, a watering hose and tree watering collars. PF offered to look into rain barrels as an alternative way of collecting water for use in maintaining the gardens.
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge: PM stated that the next article the EC will be launching related to the MMP will be on September 1. This article will request submissions of monarch photographs to be featured on the MMP landing page for the Borough of Cape May Point.
- Commissioner Liaison: CB covered the following:
 - Cape May Police have posted welcome signs throughout the communities that they serve. SA asked if we could get additional signs and CB stated that public safety falls under the Mayor's office.
 - We have finalized the Community Forestry Management Plan agreement with the state. The next step will be to complete a contract with Arborcare to begin the work on the community forestry plan.
 - We did not get selected for the Princeton Hydro grant. We think it may be because there may be other lakes with more significant algae problems.
- Green Team: BB shared her screen with green team actions and the points associated with the activities under Sustainable New Jersey (SNJ). The focus today is to discuss innovative community projects like the MMP.
 - PM will be gathering the necessary information related to the MMP that we will upload to the SNJ portal.
 - SA asked whether the CMPTPA Dune Day could be used as a submission; BB confirmed that while we have not submitted it before, it meets the definition of an innovative project.

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- SA also asked if the improvements at the south end of Lake Lily could be submitted; BB confirmed we can, but stated we are limited to three innovative projects so we may be able to use the lake improvements in a different category, such as the accessibility section since the new viewing area connects to the handicap parking. BB offered to look into this and get back to the EC.
- Several ideas were discussed related to community pledge programs where you are required to get 2.5% of the municipality to pledge a green action, like planting pollinator plants in gardens or turning lights out at night to aid migrating birds. To determine the total number required for the pledge to be successful KR will get the latest figure of how many properties are within Cape May Point. Once the pledge programs are designed, pledge sheets can be hung within the Post Office or made available during Dune Day.

NEW BUSINESS

- A spotted lantern fly was seen in Cape May Point this past week. BB will provide a notice that can be posted in public locations across the borough, and PM will provide an article that can be used as an email alert to the borough. SA will pick up copies of the postings at Borough Hall and coordinate immediate distribution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of PF, seconded by SA, the meeting was opened to the public. Bob Mullock invited members of the EC to view the pollinator garden at the Cape May Point Science Center at 10:00 am the following day. When no one else wished to speak, EG made the motion to adjourn at 11:52 AM. This was seconded by PF.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk