

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 9, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:02 am

End Time: 11:27 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 PM, seconded by SA, the minutes of February 9, 2022 were approved.

REPORTS:

- Lake Lily: [BB] CB provided an update on the grant through the state for the lake/watershed management plan. CB had requested a letter of support from the EC which was provided, and the application was submitted before the due date of February 28. We are now waiting on a response. Separately, CB stated that she is working on a list for borough plantings.
- Triangle Park: [BB] Nothing new to report.
- Beach: [BB] Many people are commenting on the Marine Mammal Stranding Center signs that are now hanging at Coral and Alexander beaches. Seals have been spotted but there have been no reports of them coming onto land. Also, Public Works has started moving sand that had shifted on the beaches this winter.
- Green Team: [BB]
 - BB discussed having the Environmental Commission review potential community outreach activities for SNJ (Sustainable New Jersey). She will send an email for everyone to review and provide their thoughts on.
 - BB discussed the upcoming NJ Plastics laws, stating we can hang posters at the post office and Borough Hall. PM created a notice that we can send out as an email newsletter to the community. [Bag Up New Jersey \(bagupnj.com\)](http://BagUpNewJersey.com) is a resource site that could be added as a link in the newsletter (email blast) or on the website.
 - SA has been looking into scheduling a speaker from Atlantic City Electric for the Civic Club, which could contribute points towards recertification.
 - Additional points can be obtained for simply encouraging the community to follow laws or best practices; perhaps a subcommittee is needed to research some of these actions.
- Commissioner Liaison: [CB]
 - CB reported that there has been a preconstruction meeting for the Yale Avenue road resurfacing. The goal is to have this work completed by summer. As part of the project, storm drains on Yale will be redone to improve the capture of street debris from going into Lake Lily.
 - The MUA pumping station the corner of Yale and Coral is undergoing major renovations to upgrade the facility. This work will take place over several months, and we will work together to coordinate the repaving of Yale with MUA's activities.
 - We will be introducing our budget at the March 10, 2022 Regular Borough Meeting.

- There is a new grant opportunity for a Community Energy Plan related to the Governor's goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2050. Aspects of this grant may relate to Green Team actions.
- Planning Board: [BB] BB met with Planning Board Secretary Rhiannon Worthington and Deputy Clerk Kelly Redington to discuss how we can improve work flow when the Planning Board needs the Environmental Commission to review plans.
 - We are targeting the Friday before any Environmental Commission meetings as the last day for reviews of applications; Monday at the latest.
 - Plans will be sent electronically, and we will have one paper copy to share. This can be left in the vestibule of Borough Hall. Anyone who takes the plan to review offsite should inform other members of the EC, including when they will return it.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Invasive Plants in Pavilion Circle: [EG] PM created a thank you letter from the EC to PW thanking them for their efforts. Things are moving along in Pavilion Circle. Bradford Pear removal is underway. Stumps in the circle will be ground down. Once the EC creates a list of plantings Commissioner Busch will support placing the order wholesale through a Public Works vendor.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge: [PM/IN/BB] PM stated that she did not receive any suggestions for plants to be given away this year. Helenium and purple dome aster were discussed as two possible options; CB suggested using Pat Sutton's list on the borough website or even reaching out to her. BB will give PM her contact information.
- PM created three articles to the EC for review and feedback. BB needs to determine the timeline for launching them.
- The Salem Oak Seedling will be picked up by BB on March 31. CB met with an individual from forestry management and will look for their recommendation on where to plant it. The sign that will be mounted by the Salem Oak will go through CB since it is Borough property.

NEW BUSINESS

- (BB) The Nature Center of Cape May will be holding its first annual Ocean Festival June 3-11, 2022. The main festival day is Saturday, June 11. As a non-profit we could have a table there staffed by volunteers. Please let BB know if you are interested in supporting.

PUBLIC PORTION:

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

- In regards to the discussion on the protection of the Salem Oak Seedling, Mr. Smith suggested looking at the wrought iron fence at Somewhere in Time, 202 Ocean Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT:

IN made the motion to adjourn at 11:27 AM. This was seconded by SA.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk