

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 13, 2022 MINUTES

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:17 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Peg Fratz

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) 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 IN, seconded by EO, the minutes of September 14, 2022 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Pavilion Circle [EG/BB]: update, pre/post photos
 - EG we had a very successful planting at the end of September with 11 volunteers. All comments have been very positive, especially about the plantings around the fire pole where we planted grasses and beach plum as we would in a dune. SA and EG have been watering. The group also worked to remove ivy. We will have to monitor the work over the winter and consider what other plants they want to put in. CB stated that the Nature Center has 3 groundsel bushes available and wondered if we would like any donated; BB said that we could use on in the circle.
 - BB has been communicating with Pat Sutton who was related with the work on the horseshoe bed. She had sent suggestions in 2012 to Sally Sachs, so BB plans to review her suggestions against what has been done.
 - BB shared a slide show showing changes (chronologically) over time which we can add to the Borough website and share with the community.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge [PM/IN]: action items update, slide show
 - PM stated that the deadline for people to submit pics for slideshow was Oct 3, and they have since been uploaded to the website ([click here](#)). An article that names those who contributed will be sent out through the EC email list.
 - PM has updated 25% of the annual report.
 - CB mentioned a short article by the NJ Audubon Association on reminders to individuals and other groups who tag/release monarchs and how it can impact the census and tagging work they do within Cape May Point. PM will review and create an article we can launch.
 - IN is working on the MMP Action 19, planting native milkweed in Pavilion Circle. She created an article and provided 5 pictures that will be queued up for launch as well.
- Commissioner Liaison: [CB]
 - Public Works (PW) seasonal staff finished at the end of September. Remaining full- time PW picked up plants and shrubs October 11 for Lake Lily and will be planting them in the next few days. They are looking for ways to landscape to direct foot traffic away from the bulkhead and

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

off of the mulch, which is killing some plants. They are also looking at signs that say please stay on the path.

- SA asked about the pergola and whether there will be vines. CB stated they have chosen native plants that will be planted during the spring of 2023.
- CB also said they had a meeting of the community energy planning committee with sustainable NJ. Mike Neary will be part of the effort. If anyone on the EC is interested, please let CB know.
- We are looking to add bicycle racks at the parking area on Lake Lily which should help people from parking perpendicular to the lake and blocking the walking path.
- Green Team [BB/CB]
 - BB shared screen and started Community Education and Outreach, which includes both the articles we send and Dune Day. Many of our other initiatives aren't scheduled for the sake of points; rather, we are constantly working on efforts to support the community and then find we can use them for SNJ. CB suggested we create a chart to track.
 - CB recently sent an article to the community about hurricane preparedness which ties into vulnerable populations identification for emergencies.
 - Backyard composting is updated on website as an ongoing initiative.
 - On October 20th there is a workshop in Triangle Park; attendees should bring pruners and gloves.
- Dune Day Recap [EG/SA/BB]
 - EG shared that Dune Day was very successful. Fifteen hundred (1500) plants were placed by herself, CB and Jonathan which were then planted by over 50 volunteers. We used captains for each beach that was planted which worked well. Next year we will be using flags to show where plants were staged to ensure that we do not miss any.
 - A sincere thank you to the Cape May Point Taxpayers Association for the \$8000 plant purchase.
 - BB shared photos of EC tables in front of the firehouse. There was good interest from the participants and the community as a whole. The green team bags that we had available will be used in a lights-out campaign before spring migration.
- Planning Board [BB]: subcommittee update
 - Mary Kelly, Joe Remy and BB have met as a subcommittee to discuss light pollution and noise.
 - BB will send link to EC members on a presentation she attended on light pollution.
 - Next scheduled PB meeting is Tuesday, October 18th. The EC would like to receive copies of the application that is being discussed in advance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- EO raised the topic of holly tree aging. There are two holly trees in the Point that are over 130 years old. We may do an article on how holly trees are aged in the near future. CB said perhaps we create a list of historic trees in the Point similar to West Cape May; EG said she will contact them on the EC's behalf.
- We discussed ensuring that articles that are mailed to the community are maintained on the website as an ongoing resource. KR will work with PM and BB to implement.

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

- EG asked if we are making progress on hiring the forestry expert; CB will continue to work with Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace on this.
- SA questioned if a support is needed on the Salem Oak to keep it growing straight.
- Salem Oak tree being maintained in BB's yard. CB suggested rotating the tree instead.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of SA, seconded by IN, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, PM made the motion to adjourn at 11:17 AM. This was seconded by EG.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk