

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 14, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:02 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

() 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 EG, seconded by IN, the minutes of August 3, 2022 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Pavilion Circle Update:
 - EG shared that work continues in Pavilion Circle in anticipation of planting on September 24th with volunteers solicited through the CMPTA. Volunteers are welcome to bring native plants from their own yards as a contribution to the garden.
 - CB provided EG and BB quotes for plants from Tuckahoe Nursery and Pinelands Nursery that will be used at Pavilion Circle and Lake Lily (total: \$687.86). BB made a motion seconded by EG to authorize payment for the plants from the EC budget, which was carried unanimously by vote of all present.
 - The plants from Tuckahoe Nursery will be picked up by Public Works (PW) on Tuesday, September 20th in preparation for planting on Saturday, September 24th. CB will ensure that PW takes the proper steps to have electric lines marked near the fire whistle and horseshoe bed.
 - BB stated that the work being done throughout Pavilion Circle is part of the reason why the EC is receiving the 2022 Heritage Award from the Cape May Point Taxpayer's Association. CB has the plaque and certificate which will be displayed in Borough Hall.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge (MMP):
 - IN stated we will be taking pictures of the work done in Pavilion Circle to support the action item that relates to planting milkweed and native nectar plants. We have also sent out the communication requesting 2022 photos of monarchs in CMP to be used as part of the MMP.
 - CB shared that the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation has published an article that states a new study released in Biological Conservation found harmful levels of pesticides in milkweed plants purchased from retail nurseries across the United States. She had provided this press release to IN and PM and will share with the remainder of the EC.
- Commissioner Liaison:
 - Saturday, October 1st at 8:30 am volunteers will meet at the south end of Lake Lily to remove invasive plants. Saturday was chosen to accommodate people who work M-F.
 - CB will be working with Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace on the steps required to hire the consultant who will support creation of the forestry plan.
 - Japanese black pine trees, an invasive species, have been dying across the Point. To avoid fungus and insects getting into the tree, you should avoid damaging the bark or topping the

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tree. Current drought conditions may be making the situation worse. CB will look into the costs associated with giving away a non-invasive seedling like a pitch pine to help replace the dying trees.

- BB requested that the forestry consultant provide suggestions on the Salem Oak seedling and whether we should keep it in its current pot until planting it next spring, assuming we have determined a way to sufficiently protect it.
 - CB and Administrator Ed Grant had their first meeting with the community energy grant consultant. They will be looking for people in the community that have experience or expertise in energy efficiency.
 - Lastly, Atlantic City Electric will be replacing meters across CMP with smart meters. SA asked how we will know when the work is happening since door hangers are not allowed; EG stated the digital meters look very different than the meters most people have at their homes at this time.
- Green Team:
 - BB shared that the Lights Out campaign will be moving forward as planned. National Audubon has a pledge that we will use as a guide when creating ours.
 - There was a brief discussion on what is required for a nature walk to count towards Sustainable New Jersey (SNJ). CB suggested we do this in the spring (2023) since the planning and follow-up requirements require several steps to be completed.
 - Dune Day will be on October 8; EG is managing the event and signing up volunteers for specific tasks. SA and BB will be hosting an EC table at the CMP Fire Company to highlight relevant topics like the Lights Out campaign and the spotted lantern fly.
 - EG is looking for captains to support the event at each of the beach entrances that will be included in this year's event. IN and Mike Neary (MN) have volunteered for Brainard Beach; EG still needs four additional captains.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BB stated that Borough Planning Board meetings are now Tuesdays; the schedule of future meetings is available on the website. CB asked if a subcommittee had been formed to look at community light and noise to which BB confirmed there is a subcommittee but it has not had the opportunity to meet yet.
- SA mentioned an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer that may be of interest to other EC members about a new CHOP tower in Philadelphia that will incorporate a design element that deters birds from flying into the building.
- People are accumulating excess reusable bags as a result of the plastic bag ban in NJ. It was suggested that they donate extra bags to Cape May Community Food Closet or a similar organization.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of BB, seconded by SA, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, IN made the motion to adjourn at 11:02 AM. This was seconded by EG.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk