

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 11, 2023 – 10:00 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 11:02 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison
(x) Barb Bassett, Chair
() Commissioner Catherine Busch
(x) Peg Fraatz

(x) Elise Geiger
(x) Isabelle Neary
(x) Paula Massanari, Vice Chair
(x) Emelia Oleson

The Environmental Commission of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Chair Barb Bassett (BB) at 10:00 AM and the Open Public Meetings Statement was read. This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM under local operation guidance from the NJDCA pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 11.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Salem Oak Tree

PF visited several Salem Oak trees that were planted by municipalities to see how they were memorialized. Utilizing feedback from the EC in the September meeting, PM combined the proposed signs for the Salem Oak into a single sign which was sent to BB for review. BB asked EC members if they were in favor of waiting until Arbor Day (April 26, 2024) for a celebration event. The EC unanimously agreed.

EG said the tree appears to be healthy and may have lost some leaves on the bottom from irrigation. CB suggested it may need pruned because it does not have a single leader; BB suggested we have an arborist weigh in.

Pavilion Circle

EG said work continues in PC. We have two more beds that need invasive plant removal. We are hoping all of the plugs that were planted will come up next year. We have had monarchs throughout the beds the past few weeks.

Mayors Monarch Pledge

BB shared that Cellular Tracking Technologies launched Project Monarch on September 21st in the courtyard pollinator garden of the science center. Tags are applied with eyelash glue and can be found within a certain radius when using a smart phone app.

Planning Board

There are no Planning Board applications that need to be reviewed by the EC at this time. BB and Matt Brown have met and discussed the need for the EC to have ample time to review application packets.

Light Pollution

At the prior meeting EC members were asked to review additional information on light pollution. Several key points discussed at this meeting included:

- Light pollution impacts insects including migrating monarchs who will react to light when they should be roosting.
- Even garden lighting can impact wildlife. BB stated that Dark Sky published an article on the five principles of garden lighting, which state it should be useful, targeted, low level, controlled and warm colored. The article can be reviewed here: <https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles/>

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- EG asked if there are acceptable levels of illumination in a garden. BB referred to another document published by Dark Sky that can be found here:
<https://www.darkskysociety.org/handouts/lightingplanguidelines.pdf>
- BB shared information from an article from Community and Environmental Defense Services (CEDs) on light trespass that explains what it is and how it can be better controlled. The article can be found here:
<https://ceds.org/lighttrespass/>

As a next step, the EC needs to gather information into a report which would then be provided to the Borough Commissioners for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Status Update from the Friends of Lake Lily:

Thomas Reilly and Garrett Bergman of the Friends of Lake Lily spoke about the groups goals in 2023 which included the resumption of fundraising. The group has provided money to the Borough for Cleanflow's services. Mr. Reilly said that he and others are willing to help support the work that would be needed to receive grant funding for the lake, in particular the south end where they feel there has been significant overgrowth. They have met with Commissioner Busch who has agreed to have this area looked at by a third-party professional. EG asked if they would consider paying for spraying around the lake and BB said this must be coordinated though the Borough. Mr. Bergman concluded by saying the relationship between the Borough, EC and the Friends of Lake Lily is a two-way street and they plan to continue to attend EC meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EG shared that Dune Day was very successful. Over 70 volunteers planted 20 American holly trees, 20 bayberry trees, 1,750 goldenrod plants and 5,000 grass plugs. BB thanked EG for all of her work on Dune Day. BB will write a thank you note on behalf of the EC to Jonathan Wescott for drafting the 2023 Dune Day Plan.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of PF, seconded by PM, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, on motion of EO, seconded by PF, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary