

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 8, 2023 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:07 am

End Time: 11:10 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

() Peg Fraatz

() Paula Massanari

(x) Elise Geiger

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Isabelle Neary

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(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 EO, the minutes of January 11, 2023 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

- BB stated that we are postponing any discussion about commercial gas leaf blowers until the next meeting.
- Pavilion Circle: CB, EG and BB went to Pavilion Circle and the plantings have buds. We are looking to add winterberry, red cedar, sassafras and grass plugs during early spring; they will plan to purchase plants in the coming weeks. CB said during the prime volunteer work season they may promote group planting events twice a month; EG offered make posters that we could put in the post office each month.
- Mayors' Monarch Pledge: BB received a letter from Bob Moffatt through Borough Clerk Elaine Wallace regarding the MMP which she will send to the remainder of the EC members.
- Commissioner Liaison:
 - At the last meeting CB mentioned that PW had coordinated a work day with Audubon on East Lake Drive. Audubon determines which invasive plants need removed and PW has provided the labor to remove them.
 - On the west side of the lake there is dense green briar where there is a bench you can't even see from the road, but the agreement with Audubon was to leave 10-15 feet of growth around the lake for wildlife.
 - A satellite camera system has been installed including the cameras that help provide security for the dunes. One location is Harvard Avenue with cameras pointing in two separate directions where trees had been cut by homeowners before. The other camera is on Alexander Avenue which is currently pointing at the walkway and still needs adjustment. They also replaced cameras at the entrances to the Point on Lighthouse and Cape Avenues. EO asked if the cameras cover 100% of the dunes to which CB said no.
 - We have a bid opening today for the pole barn extension. CB said we will have an update on projects at the next Commissioner's work session on February 21.
 - CB adjusted the EC budget for 2023. We have adequate funds for planned projects.

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- Green Team: The Nature Walk on Lake Lily was a success. EG and BB covered more than just birds during the walk, including the difference between the State Park ponds and Lake Lily, as well as the ongoing work to care for the lake including invasive removals with Audubon. The two-hour event drew more than 30 people from the Point as well as Cape May County who had the opportunity to see over 26 species of birds and waterfowl on and around the lake. People on the walk asked if they could do it again, so the group decided on Saturday, March 11 at 10:00.
- BB shared that there is nothing from the Planning Board for review this month.
- Cathy Stambaugh and SA discussed their idea to replace the plants at the Cape Avenue entrance pillars to provide winter interest. BB shared her screen with the drawing they created.
 - New plants would be placed in the same location as existing plants. They discussed what plants they were thinking of using and what their mature sized would be. They also discussed what color would be provided during the winter.
 - The nursery they plan to use suggested they be planted in March. SA and CS will donate money to purchase the plants in lieu of what they would normally donate elsewhere. SA said they would be willing to supervise the planting if Public Works would provide the labor.
 - SA said the existing plants on the right side do not seem to be doing as well as the left, which could be due to irrigation. Irrigation is available on both sides of Cape Avenue; EO suggested they look into getting the soil tested.
 - CB said if this is an EC endorsed project, the group should take a vote and then a comprehensive plan should be taken to the commissioners. They will have to be clear on whether this is a volunteer effort and whether there will be any cost to the Borough. She shared that the mayor had recently expressed concern about line of site and traffic calming at this entrance so that should be kept in mind.
 - IN said she wishes they had more information about the size of the plants because the pillars are not that large. There was also discussion about what kind of soil they would find when digging deep in this area and whether anything would have to be added.
 - The group voted, and BB, SA, EG, IN, and EO unanimously agreed that when the plan is ready CB could take it to the Commissioners for discussion at a future public meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of SA, seconded by EO, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary