

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 10, 2023 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:01 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Peg Fraatz

(x) Elise Geiger

() 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:

None.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Pavilion Circle:

- EG reported that we had an excellent mulch day with a notable number of volunteers. BB shared photos from the event. Public Works added stepping stones both in Pavilion Circle and Lake Lily to delineate where we want people to walk so they don't walk through beds killing things underground.
- EG suggested that as a next step we should look at grasses or perennials for color.
- CB suggested we get volunteers or use Public Works during their less busy period in the summer to take on the remaining beds.
- PM asked if we should send a letter of thanks to the Public Works employees, to which everyone agreed. She will create a letter on behalf of the EC; once approved it will be sent to Public Works.

Gas Powered Leaf Blowers:

- BB said the leaf blower report is still in draft form. She asked the EC to review the executive summary and provided feedback. BB is recommending that for the Borough to decide on whether to implement or not, an engineering analysis that focuses on the financial impact would need to be completed.
- The Environmental Commission can better support this effort by educating the community on why we would like to see properties without grass. We also want to 'leave the leaves' instead of having them collected by a leaf blower or rake. EG agreed, stating that we could bring in a speaker to discuss aquatics and how fertilizer used on lawns impact Lake Lily.
- The EC unanimously agreed the report is finalized and will be sent to Mayor Moffatt.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

- All of the activities that were part of the 2022 Mayor's Monarch Pledge will be used towards Cape May Point's Sustainable New Jersey certification. This will be discussed in more detail under the Green Team portion of today's meeting.

Commissioner Liaison:

- CB reported that on Monday of this week Public works planted shrubs at Lake Lily, but were unable to complete everything. The shrubs were chosen and ordered in advance, but some

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

items weren't available. There are no guarantees, it is dependent on what the nursery is able to purchase. EO asked if we could prepay for plants. CB said in government you have to have the product in hand before you pay for it.

- Some have seen notices that NJ Audubon is doing a volunteer event on the east side of the lake tomorrow, 9am-12pm in the area that PW helped clear of invasive plants. Anyone with an interest in helping can show up.
- Clean Flow will be at Lake Lily for the first treatment of the year on Friday. If you see someone in a boat on the lake do not be concerned.
- County municipal household hazardous waste collection this Saturday. We will send out a notice to the borough residents that have signed up for alerts.
- SA asked if there has ever been thought of dumping the leaves that Public Works collects in the area that Audubon cleared to provide additional cover for wildlife. CB said she would ask the stewardship staff if we would want to take them from our resident's yards.
- SA asked if we would ever be considering composting yard waste here in Cape May Point. CB said in order to run a composting facility you need permits from the DEP and there are regulations to abide by. CB said she would like to see Cape May Point compost but we can't take that on at this time.

Green Team

- BB shared screen which displayed the Sustainable New Jersey portal page for Cape May Point. She thanked CB for updating the portal with our latest submission. We still need to capture articles and any other activities we have under taken in the last year as part of the next submission on May 12.

Planning Board

- Matt Brown is the new chair of the Planning Board. EG has also joined the PB.

Salem Oak Tree

- SA asked if we should give the Salem Oak any fertilizer. CB suggested an organic fertilizer on top.

NEW BUSINESS:

- SA announced the Cape May Garden Club plant sale is this Saturday at 9am in Rotary Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CB said we don't have a vice chair for the EC, so perhaps there will be someone interested in volunteering for this.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

As there were no members of the public attending the meeting, on motion of PF seconded by PM the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary