

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 12, 2023 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 10:27 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

() Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) 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 Vice Chair Paula Massanari (PM) at 10:00 AM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by PM. 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

- PM reported that the tree has been planted and Peg Fraatz (PF) has been checking on it to ensure it is adequately watered by the irrigation system in Pavilion Circle (PC). We will discuss plans for a plaque at our next meeting.

Pavilion Circle:

- EG reported that volunteers are continuing to work on the horseshoe bed in PC. CB said that once the group gets it weeded Public Works (PW) will mulch.
- CB shared that she has been reading about restoration of natural landscape, and the more you weed the more weeds will sprout, so it may be better to cut weeds in the future. PW could assist with a weedwhacker.
- EG finished by saying we still need to work on a perennial plan.

Commissioner Liaison:

- PW is engaged in the annual trimming of trees and shrubs in the right of way. This is done for bicyclists and sight lines at intersections.
- New white beach mats have been placed at the Brainard and Stites beach entrances. At this point we have installed them in all of the locations that they are appropriate for.
- CB asked if anyone from the EC would be able to attend the NJ Audubon Society event at Triangle Park on Saturday, July 15. PM and IN replied that they will try. EG shared that it was posted on NextDoor.

Planning Board

- EG reported that the July meeting of the PB was cancelled.
- The PB has established an advisory committee that is looking at ordinances and creating guidelines on them. The first one they are working on is lot coverage.

NEW BUSINESS:

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Dune Day 2023

- CB stated that Jonathan Westcott has once again created a comprehensive proposal with input from Bill Gibson (BG), who advised we not plant as many grasses where the beach is shorter because the tide can cut off access between beaches. Most of the activity will be between St. Pete's beach and the State Park line. CB reported that there is a small dune that is forming at Coral Avenue that we want to stabilize with plants.
- There is a dune forming between Lehigh Avenue and the State Park that will be planted. PM asked how we should notify the State Park of the event. EG replied that she will talk with BG to ensure they are aware. CB said we can also put a stake in the ground so that we don't go onto their land.
- CB concluded by stating the event is being planned for October 9, 2023. PM thanked EG and CB for working with Jonathan on this important event.
- CB requested a vote by the EC to present that plan to the Commissioners for approval. On motion of PF, seconded by IN, all members unanimously voted that the plan is complete and ready for review by the Governing Body.

EC Training

- PM shared that Kelly Redington (KR) is working on creating an Open Public Meetings Act Guide for the EC which will be used whenever new EC members join. We will discuss this more at our next EC meeting on August 9, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- EG shared that Denise Coleman requested a copy of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge poster that she can put with her milkweed donation cart that sits on the corner of Lehigh and Yale Avenue. Denise buys and donates the plants. The public is then welcome to take plants and make monetary donations which go to the Warren Garden Club. In 2022, the Club donated \$600.00 to the Cape May Point Environmental Trust. EO asked if it was appropriate to provide the MMP poster; CB said she will leave it up to Barb Bassett (BB) to determine.
- CB discussed that recently there were two individuals who named Borough of Cape May Point trust funds in their obituaries in lieu of flowers. Both individuals have ties to Cape May Point, and one chose The Lake Lily Trust Fund and the other the Environmental Trust Fund.
- CB also shared that the article written by PM and sent out by the EC called "Why does Lake Lily Look Like That?" was every well done.
- PM and EG have started meeting as the special advisory committee on the EC's communication strategy. They are hoping to bring back suggestions to the EC in September. PM said that KR had provided her a Borough FAQ that the Clerk's office gives out to new owners and those who received a rental permit in 2023 so that she and EG can review and provide KR feedback.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of IN, seconded by SA, the meeting was opened to the public. Garrett Bergman, a resident of Cape May Point and a member of the Friends of Lake Lily, shared that he will be attending future meetings of the EC so that he may report back on EC activities. PM thanked him for attending and stated it will be nice to have a liaison to the Friends of Lake Lily.

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When no one else wished to speak, on motion of PF, seconded by IN, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary