

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 9, 2023 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

End Time: 10:57 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) 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 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:**

On motion of EG seconded by SA, the minutes of June 14, 2023 were approved by all present. On motion of PM seconded by EO, the minutes of July 12, 2023 were also unanimously approved.

### **ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

#### **Salem Oak Tree**

The tree is doing well in Pavilion Circle. Paula Massanari (PM) and Peg Fraatz (PF) have been assigned to work on proposed wording for the plaque. PM will contact Cape May Point resident Lynn Smith for a scanned photo of the carving his grandfather did of the original Salem Oak tree. BB will investigate whether there is any standard language that was provided with each Salem Oak that was distributed across NJ.

#### **Pavilion Circle**

EG reported that it is time to begin planting perennials and grasses. The bed closest to the pump station needs cleaned out and planted next year. The next community volunteer day is Saturday, August 12, from 9 am – 11 pm.

Thank you to our regular Monday volunteers, especially those who have continued to dedicate their time on a regular basis. For anyone who wants to join us we gather in Pavilion Circle to work on Mondays starting sometime between 9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

CB sent a list of potential native plants that could be used in Pavilion Circle to all EC members for review. EO and BB volunteered to review the list and let CB which plants should be purchased which will be based on availability at the nursery. A vote was taken by BB to authorize up to \$400.00 for the purchase of plants. All present were in favor.

After perennials are planted PM can work on an article to be shared with the community.

#### **Communications Subcommittee**

EG and PM have met several times as the communications subcommittee. Their initial recommendations will be documented and shared at an upcoming meeting to stimulate input from others.

#### **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

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beach entrances. At this point we have installed them in all of the locations that they are appropriate for.

Since the last EC meeting the NJ Audubon Society held their event at Triangle Park on Saturday, July 15. It went well and PM wrote a nice article that was shared with the community. The Borough's contract with NJ Audubon has ended. If there are any future endeavors they will rise organically from PW or the EC. EG questioned if NJ Audubon can continue to spray around Lake Lily. CB said that spraying around the lake is between the Friends of Lake Lily and NJ Audubon.

The Dune Day plan was approved by the Commissioners. Thank you to Jonathan Westcott and all those who provided input.

### **Planning Board**

The August meeting of the PB was cancelled and there are no plans for review by the EC.

### **Green Team**

CB completed the Sustainable New Jersey (SNJ) portal edits for bronze certification. We have not heard back yet but we should have 175 points. We should get a bronze plate to add to the plaque in Borough Hall and consider having a small ceremony to recognize all of the work completed over the last several years.

### **EC Training Update**

EC Secretary Kelly Redinton (KR) provided a brief update on the ongoing training for all EC Members. Last week she shared an Open Public Meetings Act document. This month she will be sharing Chapter 2 of the ANJEC Handbook. We will also be looking into what courses are available to ANJEC members in the coming month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Spotted Lantern Flies (SLF)**

A SLF was seen in a **tree of heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*) in the dune along Crystal Avenue between Knox and Stites Avenues in Cape May Point. Local resident Lance Lipset who observed and reported the SLF was in attendance and confirmed it was not an adult. CB shared that the best time to cut back tree of heaven is later in the fall, and that cutting them back now can actually cause them to spread more. We will survey the area to determine a plan of action.

An article was sent last year about killing SLF when you see them. We will repeat that article as a reminder and to inform any new home owners.

### **Doug Tallamy Presentation August 28, 2023**

CB reported that Doug Tallamy will be presenting "Garden for LIFE" at the Avalon Community Center on Monday, August 28, 2023. Doug is a renowned entomologist and will speak about how supporting plants for insects is the basis of the food web. He is looking to enlist locals to plant 70% of their yards with native species. BB will create a poster to be printed at Borough Hall. SA will take care of posting at the two beach entrance kiosks and the post office. BB will provide a copy to the bird observatory.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BB shared that there is a Mayors' Monarch Pledge (MMP) Zoom presentation on August 14 at 4:00 pm. She will forward the invite to the EC for anyone that wishes to attend.

### **PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of PF, seconded by PM, the meeting was opened to the public. Local property owner Jean Biesecker asked if she could speak with someone about the Environmental Commission and how they operate as part of local municipal government. BB shared that the EC advises the Commissioners on EC related items on the community. The EC also has volunteer opportunities and projects that don't require someone to be a member of the EC. BB said she will make herself available to answer any questions Jean may have about the EC.

When no one else wished to speak, on motion of PF, seconded by EO, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary