

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 8, 2023 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:27 am

EC Members present:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| (x) Sandy Allison | (x) Peg Fraatz |
| (x) 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 IN, seconded by PF, the minutes of February 8, 2023 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

• Pavilion Circle: BB presented a worksheet of proposed plants that would be available through Tuckahoe Nurseries, stating that today’s goal is to agree upon what will be ordered for spring planting. The group agreed upon the following list, voting unanimously to spend up to \$500.00. The plants will be ordered and prepaid so that Public Works will pick up when travelling to Woodbine with leaf bags and other yard waste. The proposed date of pickup is May 2 for planting the weekend of May 6.

**Pavilion Circle – Plants
Availability at Tuckahoe Nursery**

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Number	Description	Scientific Name	\$/per	Total	Notes	
2	Cedars	Juniperus virginiana	\$ 109.00	\$ 218.00	6-7'; review area to determine if 1 or 2	
6	Winterberry	Ilex verticillata	\$ 19.00	\$ 114.00	30-36" #7; 1 Southern Gentleman 5 Sparkleberry	
3	Inkberry	Ilex glabra	\$ 13.75	\$ 41.25	18-24" #3	
1	Grow Lo Sumac	Rhus aromatica	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	18-36" #3	TOTAL
						\$ 386.75
1	Red Dogwood	Cornus Sericea	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	18-24" #3; hold off for now	
1	Black Cherry	Prunus serotina	#N/A	\$ -	BB - yard plant	
1	Sassafras	Sassafras albidum	#N/A	\$ -	BB - yard plant	
multiple	Snake root	Ageratina	#N/A	\$ -	CB - yard plant	
TBD	Grass plugs		#N/A	#N/A	hold off for now	
1	Winged Sumac	Rhus copallinum	#N/A	\$ -	Grow Lo instead	

Unanimous vote to spend up to \$500 from EC Budget

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- Mayors' Monarch Pledge: BB received a letter from Bob Mullock regarding the MMP which she has forwarded to EC members for review.
- Commissioner Liaison:
 - The forestry consultant is meeting with CB and EG at the end of this week; we are excited to begin the process of putting together the Borough's plan.
 - At the most recent Commissioners work session Tom Reed of NJ Audubon presented an overview of SpringWatch which will take place in the Point at the top of the platform of the Coral Avenue beach entrance. The Star and Wave has published an article on the topic as well.
 - The Borough is currently working on the budget. The Pole Barn has been awarded for summer construction. CB was asked about whether landscaping will be included in the project she said we would look at this afterwards when construction is completed.
 - EO asked if the cameras that have been installed to protect the dunes are operational; CB confirmed they are.
 - EG asked if PW has completed work on invasive species removal around the lake. CB confirmed that the work is still ongoing. This is the third year of the contract between the Borough, Friends of Lake Lily and Audubon, and possibly the last. Audubon has had difficulty finding seasonal employees for these positions which is why PW is supporting the effort.
- Green Team: The deadline for the first round of the SNJ review process was February 26. CB submitted several actions on behalf of the GT which she reviewed with BB. Our current possible point total is 155.
 - The nature walks are worth 5 points each for up to 20 points. CB suggested we see if Todd Reed of NJ Audubon would be interested in hosting a talk about SpringWatch. SA suggested we consider zoom for the people who cannot attend locally. BB said she will follow up with Mr. Reed.
 - BB said the planned nature walk on Saturday March 11 will likely need to be moved because of the weather forecast. The group discussed and unanimously agreed upon March 12, 1:00 pm. We will send out a notice from the Borough, and anyone is welcome to put the change on their personal social media pages.
- Gas Powered Leaf Blowers: In response to a request from Mayor Moffatt, IN presented research she conducted on commercial gas-powered leaf blowers including emissions, noise pollution and other factors that led 3 municipalities in NJ to ban their use.
 - EG shared that there are a number of things that need to be considered including whether it is even financially feasible for local landscapers to comply with such a requirement. There will be the cost of replacing equipment, the charging time for the equipment, and the amount of time it takes to complete a job with a gas-powered blower versus an electrical one. She offered to reach out to some local landscapers to discuss further.
 - BB requested that EC members volunteer to contact environmental commissions from other NJ towns that have implemented an ordinance prohibiting them. PM will reach out to Montclair and East Orange; EG will reach out to Princeton.
 - IN said she would like to better understand why Mayor Moffatt raised this as an idea; BB said she will discuss with him on behalf of the EC.

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- BB shared that there is nothing from the Planning Board for review this month.
- EO asked where the Salem Oak is currently residing. BB confirmed it is currently in SA's yard. SA spoke with an expert who stated we should keep it in a pot until the trunk is 1" – 1.5". SA will reach out to Cape May to see if they planted theirs yet and how they are protecting it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of EO, seconded by PF, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary