

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 16, 2024 – 10:00 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:26 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Peg Fraatz

(x) Elise Geiger

() 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 10:01 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 PM seconded by EO, the minutes of September 11, 2024 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Invasive Patrol: EG reported that our volunteers have been able to keep working at Lake Lily because the drought is allowing them to reach places that are sometimes under water. Moving north along West Lake Drive, they cleared a very large section last Monday. CB said they are tagging larger items for Public Works to address.

EG said that they have calculated 470 total volunteer hours by this small group, which equates to a savings of over \$9400.00 for the Borough. BB thanked all of the EC volunteers.

Commissioner's Report:

Dune Day: CB thanked the CMPTA for a wonderful Dune Day. She also thanked Public Works (PW) who assisted with clearing of the Dune on the Harvard Avenue side.

Triangle Park: There are volunteers who manage the pollinator garden there, but going forward we need the EC to help determine where we go with the wooded area of the park. The EC always deferred to Audubon, but that contract was ended. When asked by EO if the cedar trees are still dying there, CB said it is still unclear, but they have learned through forestry educational programs any time environmental conditions change it can affect the trees. That end of Triangle Park was closest to the construction of several houses.

Lake Lily: We are near drought conditions and we desperately need rain. We have contacted Clean Flo to come out and repair the bubblers. We are initiating the winter treatment process in the south end of the lake which has been partially funded by the Friends of Lake Lily (FLL). CB is looking into other supplemental treatment options. BB said that in her experience with lakes the growth at the south end will take some time to decompose.

Planning Board: BB presented the EC's recommendations on light pollution at the last PB meeting. Also, the decision stayed that pavers will not be considered pervious even if marketed as such. This month's meeting is cancelled.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge: BB created the annual report of activities which is due December 1. She sent it to IN and KR for comment. The three items that we are submitting are the Borough proclamation, the citizen science effort of the project monarch app (supported by the Science Center), and adding or maintaining milkweed on public land.

Dune Day: EG reported that the following items were planted in Cape May Point on Dune Day:

- 20 Coastal little Blue Stem - 2 gallon
- 15 Bayberry - 3 gallon
- 30 Beach Plum - 1 gallon
- 15 Eastern Red Cedar - 1 gallon

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- 10,000 plugs, many near the Science Center

EG said Cape May City celebrated their first Dune Day in 2024, and they purchased all of the Seaside Goldenrod which was available locally. We will need to plan further in advance next year. EG expressed her thanks to Jonathan Westcott, CB, BB and Public Works for supporting this endeavor.

What Should I Plant?

BB discussed the EC doing an article on what can be planted to draw pollinators, focusing on photos of Triangle Park and Pavilion Circle. If we decide to do an article PM will send some verbiage that can accompany the pictures.

EG said she would like the EC to revisit the discussion on creating a more comprehensive planting guide for the community. CB said there is an approved list of trees that are part of the Tree Removal Ordinance, and the EC has a guide on the Borough website. It will take a smaller working group to determine how to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

BB said that the EC could support a future educational plant walk around Cape May Point that could be sponsored by the EC which we can work on planning the walk over the winter. CB has a list of what plants are at Lake Lily; EG can create a list of what is in the horseshoe bed. PM suggested that the EC buy plants and give them to attendees to take home with them. BB said that we should discuss timing of this further at the December meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

KR said that the Borough received a \$325.00 donation to the Environmental Trust Fund from the milkweed cart at the corner of Lehigh and Yale Avenues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EG said that she has been taking stormwater training through ANJEC and recommends that other EC members consider taking some of ANJEC's training courses.

PUBLIC PORTION

On motion of EG seconded by PM, the meeting was opened to the public. Garrett Bergman of the Friends of Lake Lily (FLL) read a statement regarding their opinion about the appearance of the lake, in particular the growth of vegetation at the south end. They are formally requesting that the Borough hold an open meeting to discuss this with the FLL. BB replied that all EC and Commission meetings are open to the public, and anyone is welcome to attend. Further, while the FLL have expressed their dissatisfaction with the appearance of the lake, there are many who find that there is nothing wrong with the way it looks. The EC wants to partner and work with the FLL, but the FLL need to develop their vision for the lake and then see if it aligns with the Borough. CB said they also need to see it aligns with available resources through the Borough. Mr. Bergman thanked the EC for the discussion, and said the FLL will be making a formal request to the Borough for a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary