

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

April 10, 2024 – 10:00 am

Start Time: 10:02 am

End Time: 11:14 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 10:02 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 IN seconded by PM, the minutes of February 21, 2024 were approved by all present.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Invasive Patrol

- EG reported that volunteers have donated over 160 hours of their time to the continued removal of invasive trees, shrubs and plants. The usual volunteer day for this effort is Mondays and occasionally Thursday mornings, 9am-12pm. BB thanked EG, CB and PF for their continued support of this effort to preserve native trees and plants.

Commissioner's Report

- **Lake Lily:** CB said that we have arranged for Clean Flo to do the first of four treatments on Lake Lily starting in April. Residents and visitors should expect that they may see members of Clean Flo on the lake.
- **Community Forest Management Plan:** Thank you to EC member Peg Fraatz (PF) for completing the state training program. We now have a third person on the Tree Committee that has successfully completed this training. We continue to work on removal of invasives on the west side of the lake. CB also continues to monitor what plantings are available from Tuckahoe nursery for both Lake Lily and Pavilion Circle.
- **Maritime Dune Forest Update:** Public Works continues to remove dead, non-native Japanese Black Pines in the dunes, as prescribed in the Forestry Management plan.
- **Dune Day:** CB will work with the CMPTA to determine what trees and plantings are needed for Dune Day 2024.

Planning Board

- BB reported that at the PB last meeting they reviewed the application for the subdivision of a non-conforming lot. BB communicated the EC's request that the subdivided lots meet the required 60% vegetative cover. Those recommendations will be met as a condition of the approved subdivision.

Light Pollution

- BB received no changes to the draft recommendation on light pollution to the Commissioners. BB will submit the final recommendation which will be then posted on the Borough website in the *Document Center* under the *Environmental Commission* page.

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Borough Landscaping and Tree Ordinance Review

- EG reported that Borough code allows property owners to treat the removal of trees the same whether they are native, non-native or invasive. CB said that we are currently working on the renewal of the Borough's stormwater permit which will include a required tree ordinance. One of the changes she is working on is to make stronger requirements around native tree removal. This change will then affect the Borough zoning ordinance. EG said our zoning ordinance places a greater focus on new properties, and the tree ordinance looks at all properties equally, existing and new.
 - PM recommended that the EC look at The Pollinator Prairie project which addresses similar issues. There are videos available for those that wish to watch. In addition to the ordinance, we can look to improve education in the community. CB said that Avalon's EC created a landscape booklet to help guide residents on what should or should not be planted, and that we could consider this approach for our borough.
 - BB Asked if we could investigate whether we could potentially get the entire town certified as a National Wildlife Refuge, which she will look into.
 - EG said that if anyone has additional suggestions, they should communicate to her and she will present it to the PB. SA agreed and said we need to do whatever we can to stop people removing trees from their properties.
 - PF asked why we don't have a shade tree commission, which would have the ultimate authority on the removal of trees; CB said that we do not have enough people within the borough to support a shade tree commission.

Update on ANJEC Correspondence

- PM previously sent a communication regarding ACE's future replacement of regular street lamps with LED lamps. CB suggested that PM look into the statement that the replacement lights will be cooler and therefore better for the environment. PM said that ANJEC was appreciative of the Cape May Point EC bringing the replacement of street lights to their attention.

Update on Website

- KR said that the website is a work in progress and there is no update at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

- BB, IN and KR met yesterday to discuss the 2024 MMP. BB shared her screen and read through the 2024 pledge summary.
- The group discussed several actions that could be taken for the 2024 pledge including a community art project that could then be part of the annual CMPTA Garden Awards in late summer/early fall. EG suggested that the group consider something as simple as painting rocks that would then be dispersed throughout the community.
- PM asked if we could use an article that she created to help educate the community on neonicotinoids (neonictoids) as it affects all insects, including pollinators. The article ties into the MMP and focuses on residents buying plants that aren't treated with neonictoids which are regularly used in farming. It was agreed that the article would be sent prior to the next EC meeting.

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- EG said that representatives of Cape May's EC contacted her to discuss their desire to do the same in Cape May City.
- CB reminded everyone that bulk pickup is the last Monday in April, which is the 29th. This year Public Works will be supporting the effort and the Borough will send a reminder of what can or cannot be included.

PUBLIC PORTION

- Garret Bergman of the Friends of Lake Lily said that he will be prepared to provide an update at the next EC meeting. Separately, he asked if there has ever been guidance issued by the EC on not spraying for mosquitos in Cape May Point. PM said that the EC sent out an article in 2023 that states the EC's position on the topic, and that we can resend it as a reminder to the community.

ADJOURNMENT

When no one else wished to speak, on motion of PM seconded by EG, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary