

## CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

May 15, 2024 – 10:00 am

Start Time: 10:02 am

End Time: 10:49 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison  
(x) Barb Bassett, Chair  
(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch  
(x) Peg Fraatz

(x) Elise Geiger  
(x) Isabelle Neary  
( ) 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 EG seconded by IN, the minutes of April 10, 2024 as amended were approved by all present.

### ON-GOING BUSINESS

#### Invasive Patrol

EG said that while the volunteers at the lake have discussed stopping as the weather grows warmer, they have continued to meet every week and are making progress on the west side where they have saved quiet a few trees by freeing them from catbrier. They have more to do but will be stopping soon when it is too hot.

Leaves have accumulated in the Pavilion circle horseshoe bed. Volunteers have been cautious with weeding because they aren't sure of what all of the planted plugs look like. The joe-pye weed and milkweed is spreading nicely. In addition to the regular volunteers Mark Cruz has been assisting. BB said everything looks great and thanked the volunteers for their dedication.

#### Commissioner's Report

- **Mulch Day:** CB said that PW will once again support mulch day, coordinating with EG who is representing the CMPTA.
- **Beaches:** CB, EG and Jonathan Westcott toured the beach to plan for Dune Day 2024.
- **Lake Lily:** Sixty perennial plants, shrubs and trees have been planted along Lake Lily by EG, CB and PW.
- **Stormwater:** PW is continuing to investigate the issues with the stormwater pipe that runs down Sunset Blvd and drains at Sunset Beach. It appears the that the outlet pipe that is under the water is clogged, and they will bring in the appropriate equipment to try to unclog it. If that does not work they will have to look to offshore divers to help investigate. The State Park is also having issues draining to the Meadows which they are looking as we head into hurricane season.

#### Planning Board

- BB reported that there are no updates from the Planning Board.

#### Light Pollution

The EC's recommendations on light pollution have been submitted to the Commissioners and is posted on the borough website. A copy was also given to Planning Board chair Matt Brown. CB will work with Administrator Ed Grant to determine if the Commissioners are interested in pursuing a lighting ordinance. CB thanked BB and EC for their work on the topic, and suggested that we do an educational article to the community covering what people can do with their existing light fixtures (timers, motion detectors, color, etc.).

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### Mayors' Monarch Pledge

BB said that she, IN and KR are working on the MMP. One of the things we are planning for is the Governing Body voting on July 2024 as Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month. KR has prepared a resolution for the June 25, 2024 work session. This would also be a good could also consider doing email communications from the EC about the topic during the month of July. Lastly, they exploring the idea of a community art project.

### NEW BUSINESS

CB said she had previously reported on Clean Flo and their recommendations on the vegetation at the south end of the lake. Clean Flo came out in April to apply the first treatment. Rather than pay Clean Flo to do the remaining treatments this year, they will provide the supplies to Public Works (PW) and they will apply the treatments. One of the mechanisms for this to be effective is to place it around the bubblers which keep the water moving and circulating. Upon inspection, Clean Flo found 4 of the bubblers needed to either be refurbished or replaced. The cost is \$5854.22. CB is asking the Friends of Lake Lily (FLL) to consider to support the Lake Lily Trust for a portion of this amount, and is waiting to hear back from Tom Reilly. She asked the EC if they would consider spending any of the annual EC budget for 2024 to help support this critical maintenance.

SA asked if PW could find competitive bids for the bubblers; CB replied that they are proprietary to Clean Flo and some of the bubblers have lasted 20 years. IN asked how much money is in the 2024 EC budget; CB replied \$7500.00. SA asked what treatment PW is applying; CB replied that they are using a Clean Flo product to speed up decomposition of plant matter.

EG said the most important thing for the lake are the bubblers. BB said we must get the pumps working before the weather gets to warm or the lake will experience an algae bloom. BB took a vote of all present EC members on whether they agree that the EC provide up to \$3,000.00 for the repair/replacement of the bubblers. EG, PF, BB, and IN voted yes; SA voted no; EO abstained.

### CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

CB said that a nationally recognized expert on pollinators will be speaking at a free event sponsored by NJ Audubon at the Cape May Point Science Center. The event is called Heather Holm: The Pollination of Native Plants, and the EC can send the information to the community so that they may sign up to attend. KR will take care of this.

### PUBLIC PORTION

On motion of PF seconded by IN, the meeting was opened to the public. Garret Bergman of the Friends of Lake Lily said that they are working on a strategic plan. He doesn't have an answer about the bubblers for Commissioner Bush, but someone will be in touch.

### ADJOURNMENT

When no one else wished to speak, on motion of IN seconded by EG, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary