

JUNE 25, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Clerk Wallace at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Clerk who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Busch and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Ed Grant, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor John Amenhauser. This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM under local operation guidance from the NJDCA pursuant to P.L. 2020, c.11.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION/REPORTS:

Possible Amendments to Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance: Solicitor Amenhauser explained he met several times with Administrator Grant and Clerk Wallace to review Ordinance 12-2024 in light of comments received from the public. One main change discussed was removing the requirement for property owners to hire a Licensed Tree Expert. The subcommittee reached out to an arborist to check his availability to be retained by the borough to help evaluate applications. No determination could be made on the application fee until further information on costs is received. Clerk Wallace asked the commissioners how they felt about a suggestion that the application only be necessary if someone wanted to remove a tree of 6" or larger, rather than 3". Ord. 12-2024 specified 3" to be consistent with requirements in the zoning chapter. The commissioners were in favor of that change and then discussed working on amending the zoning chapter to reflect and reference Ord. 12-2024 for consistency. Solicitor Amenhauser will work with borough employees and the planning board attorney. Commissioner vanHeeswyk envisioned the process ultimately requiring someone to submit the tree application as part of a zoning application, like the floodplain application process. Commissioner Busch asked who would ultimately be responsible for the process overall. There was some discussion about the clerk accepting application and working with the zoning officer who would probably handle most of the process with the input and advice of a tree expert.

Commissioner Busch attended a safe streets planning meeting in Cape May. There will be additional meetings this fall and a proposal being presented for endorsement sometime in December. Mostly, the process has focused on difficult intersections, the transit area in Cape May to West Cape May. In general, looking at safe sharing of the roadway on the entire island. Sunset has not been included because it is being handled through the County.

Commissioner vanHeeswyk announced she would be attending a mayors roundtable meeting later in the week since the topic is the new NJDEP flood rules that are going to be proposed. She had concerns with the DEP's stated intention to increase freeboard requirements to 5' which would drastically change the look of Cape May Point as the borough's code only requires 2'.

Mayor Moffatt thanked Mr. Grant and Mrs. vanHeeswyk for planning to attend the mayors roundtable meeting. He also reported the 1st week of daily tag sales was up 11%, which is believed to be related to the decrease in commercial tag sales.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Grant reported on the veterans memorial committee meeting and recognized Ed Barnhart for his participation and progress. He also reported he, Mayor Moffatt and Clerk Wallace gave the annual presentation to the seasonal beach employees. Lastly, he would be holding the second of 4 safety committee meetings later in the week.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 13, 2024

June 13, 2024 Closed Session

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION/PUBLICATION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

90-24 Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month – July 2024

Motion: Moffatt, vanHeeswyk

Roll call: all in favor

91-24 Award of Professional Services Contract for Bond Counsel – Fleishman Daniels Law Offices, LLC

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

92-24 Approval of Bill List

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

PUBLIC PORTION:

Elise Geiger felt the tree discussion was good and hoped the matter would get resolved quickly. She also suggested sending out a communication, possibly as a FAQ, to help people understand the process. Lastly, as a member of the planning board's landscaping subcommittee, she offered to share her notes and thoughts to whoever was interested.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Mayor Moffatt.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Busch

Mayor Moffatt

Commissioner vanHeeswyk