

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

July 10, 2024 – 10:00 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:22 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison
(x) Barb Bassett, Chair
(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch
() 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 10:00 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 SA, the minutes of June 12, 2024 as amended were approved by all present.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Invasive Patrol

EG said that work on the lake will slow down considerably because of poison ivy. She and CB worked on the horseshoe bed recently, and there were very few weeds to pull because this past fall they did not rake the leaves. The garden has completely filled in and is on its way to being a low maintenance space as they had planned. Plants have also grown around the fire whistle where they would never grow in the past.

There have been lots of monarchs at Pavilion Circle. BB suggested we do a before and after article for the community. There was additional discussion about putting a native garden sign or Monarch Waystation sign there. CB shared her screen to show the Monarch Waystation sign. There is an application process and the fee is \$36.00; she said the Borough can help support completing this. All present voted in favor of applying; none were opposed. BB thanked the volunteers for their continued efforts. CB said it took two years of volunteering to get the invasive plants and weeds out.

Commissioner's Report

CB said the Borough purchased a vacuum truck to clean out accumulated sediment and dirt from the storm drains in town. This will help with drainage and what ultimately ends up in the lake.

This week annual right of way trimming begins where overgrowth impedes sight lines.

Planning Board

EG said there is nothing to report from the June Planning Board meeting. This month (July) is cancelled because there are no new applications for review. BB will present the lighting recommendations at a future meeting.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

BB shared that at the June 25, 2024 Work Session the Commissioners passed a resolution making July pollinator awareness month. KR will send out the one-page infographic on key principles for responsible outdoor lighting and reface it with the resolution. If time permits we could send an additional pollinator article in July.

EC Communications

As a follow-up to the discussion on whether we should do an additional article on pollinators, PM suggested we recirculate the article on Lake Lily which discussed the growth of plants in the south end of the lake. CB said a more pressing article would be one about spotted lantern flies in the Point, and remind everyone that it is best to

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spray them with soap and water versus an insecticide that will kill other beneficial insects. PM agreed to look at a prior SLF article and have KR relaunch. In regards to Lake Lily and the amount of plants that are in the south end of the lake, CB said we need to revise the prior article and better explain what eutrophication is. It is a complex ecological process so perhaps a graphic would help.

DUNE DAY 2024

BB shared her screen with the draft 2024 Dune Day draft plan by Jonathan Westcott (JW). EG said that most of the activity will be between Coral and the State Park, but some work was activities were added at Alexander Avenue where we want to fill in an area versus increasing the height of the dune. EG said that she will reword the plan to ensure it states "fill in" versus "build" dunes.

EG said a lot of work will be done on the street side of the dunes. CB said that there is an area on the draft plan that has a lot of poison ivy that JW may not be aware of. CB also said that we should not plant too close to the walkway on Coral because Public Works will have to replace or repair part of the decking.

BB summarized the three amendments to the plan. 1) Edit the plan to state filled in versus create new; 2) Take areas with poison ivy off of the plan; 3) Note that no plantings should be close to the Coral Avenue decking structure. On motion of PM seconded by SA, the EC members present unanimously agreed that the amended plan was ready to be forwarded to the Commissioners for their review at the next commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Environmental Commission and Planning Board received notification of ACE's application for a multi-use permit that allows for maintenances and trimming of trees. CB said this is a general permit which is most likely being renewed. The application is currently available for review at the County Clerk's office (not Borough Clerk's office).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BB said that PM will chair the August meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

SA asked what happened to the award for Pavilion Circle from the CMPTA (2022) and asked if awards could be displayed somewhere. CB said she has the award and it was not determined where they would be displayed, and said that EC members can look for a location and suggest it to the EC.

EO asked if the Japanese Knotweed along Crystal Avenue should be eradicated. CB said that the Borough had not made plans to remove it at this time. It is a large undertaking, and there are invasive species all over public land across the Borough.

PUBLIC PORTION

On motion of EG seconded by PM, the meeting was opened to the public. Garrett Bergman recommended that the Borough consider writing an ordinance about what type of pesticides can or cannot be sprayed. BB said that one of the EC's responsibilities is to educate the community and we can put more focus on this in the future. Garrett also asked when Dune Day will be; EG confirmed it is October 5.

ADJOURNMENT

When no one else wished to speak, on motion of SA seconded by PM, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted, Kelly L. Redington, EC Secretary