

JUNE 23, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Mayor vanHeeswyk at 6:00 PM. Mayor vanHeeswyk read the Open Public Meetings Statement and then led those present in the flag salute. Commissioner Geiger, Mayor vanHeeswyk, and Commissioner Yunghans answered roll call. Also in attendance: Clerk Administrator 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:

Bamboo Regulations: The Commissioners discussed the draft ordinance prepared by Solicitor Amenhauser. There was some discussion on the timeline for compliance. The ordinance provides 45 days to provide a plan, then remediation within 120 days of approval of the plan. The ordinance was added to this agenda for introduction with publish hearing scheduled for July 14.

Trash Regulations: The Commissioners discussed a draft ordinance regarding placement of trash containers on corner properties. Commissioner Geiger asked that the word "impossible" be changed to "impractical". She also didn't want the ordinance to make it so someone can erect a trash corral in the front yard since the original ordinance was enacted to eliminate them from the streets. She suggested adding language such as inconspicuous or unobtrusive. Mr. Amenhauser suggested language saying the ordinance shall not be interpreted to allow the placement of trash corrals.

Treatment of Trees in Pavilion Circle: Commissioner Yunghans followed up on her report from the last meeting regarding cottony scale on multiple trees and a proposal to treat the infestation with pesticides. She discussed the situation with the Environmental Commission and members of the Tree Committee and the recommendation was not to spray harmful pesticides. Ms. Yunghans found a possible solution in natural orange oil, which attracts lady bugs which feed on cottony scale aphids. The Commissioners were in favor of trying the orange oil, especially in light of the fact the infestation is unsightly, but not typically deadly. Ms. Yunghans also suggested looking into horticultural soaps and confining application to winter when there are fewer people and wildlife to impact.

REPORTS:

Commissioner Geiger reported Code Enforcement sent out reminders to properties where signs were not the minimum 15' from the right of way. She also reported brisk sales of seasonal and weekly beach tags compared to the previous year. The beach patrol added 5 rookies for the 2026 season. Ms. Geiger announced Cape May County will soon be installing pedestrian crossing road markings and signage at the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Stevens Street/Seagrove Avenue, which should improve safety for cars, bikes and

pedestrians. Lastly, she reminded everyone to “Paint the Point Patriotic” this July 4th. The Borough received a grant from the County to purchase additional flags and provide Rita’s Water Ice at the bicycle parade. She encouraged everyone to decorate their properties in red, white, and blue.

Mayor vanHeeswyk, with regard to the sign ordinance enforcement, suggested saying signs can’t be more than 5’ from the house since often property owners don’t realize where their property starts, assuming it starts at the edge of the road. The Commissioners agreed and Solicitor Amenhauser will draft a revised ordinance. Mrs. vanHeeswyk also read from a letter thanking the three commissioners for the increased transparency and community spirit since they took office. She said it had been a joy working with her fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Yunghans read from a report that is attached at the end of the minutes.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor vanHeeswyk explained Resolution 89-26 opposes proposed legislation that would allow builders to hire their own, private inspectors, which would circumvent local construction offices and officials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting

June 9, 2026 Closed Session

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Geiger

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION/PUBLICATION:

11-2026 Ordinance Amending Chapter 113 “Nuisances, Public Health” of the Code of the Borough of Cape May Point

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Geiger

Roll call: all in favor

RESOLUTIONS:

89-26 Resolution Opposing S-3147 and A-2137 Concerning Privatization of Building Inspections

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Yunghans

Roll call: all in favor

90-26 Approval of Bill List

Motion: vanHeeswyk, Geiger

Roll call: all in favor

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: None

PUBLIC PORTION:

Bob Mullock discussed the condition of the lake, particularly the shallow, south end; the past bulkhead replacement, and road projects that contained storm drain

installations that empty into the lake. He also suggested pumping water from the lake and using it to water Pavilion Circle. Lastly, he suggested planting a combination of grasses that don't require as much watering. Mayor vanHeeswyk commented that the road projects that guide water to the lake have seriously impacted on algae growth in the lake most likely caused by runoff of fertilizer from lawns. Commissioner Yunghans thanked Mr. Mullock for his suggestions.

Sandy Allison asked if the proposed trash ordinance would pertain to everyone or if people would be grandfathered. She also asked why the ordinance couldn't just require people to put trash at the back of the house. Commissioner Geiger explained the issue is for corner properties where there isn't a location that is hidden from the street. The proposed ordinance would help clear up confusion on corner lots. Lastly, Ms. Allison noted cars parked in the wrong direction. Commissioner Geiger will mention it to the police for enforcement.

Touhey Myer asked for the definition of a trash corral. Clerk Wallace described the types of structures that used to be along the streets in town. Mayor vanHeeswyk advised examples can still be seen on Seagrove Avenue in Lower Township. She also explained the change in the ordinance many years ago to eliminate them. Mr. Touhey asked if trash corrals were prohibited. Mayor vanHeeswyk stated they were.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm on motion of Mayor vanHeeswyk, seconded by Commissioner Yunghans.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Geiger

Mayor vanHeeswyk

Commissioner Yunghans

Public Works Report
6/23/26

Update on Pavilion Circle: Despite efforts to quickly solve the iron problem in the well water, we are not there yet. So, at risk of witnessing everything dying a slow death in yet another summer drought, we have decided on a stop gap measure. Public Works will connect the irrigation system to public water and set it to water the Circle 3 times per week for the next 10 weeks. This is less than the usual 5 times per week but hopefully will be enough to sustain the grass, trees and gardens. The cost is approximately \$10,000.

Dunes and More Day planning has begun: Many thanks to Jonathan Westcott for leading this event again this year. If you have suggestions or ideas for plantings in public areas please send them to the Environmental Commission or to me.

As a follow up to the Planning Board suggestions and affirmed by the Commissioners a few meetings ago, the borough is planning public education on dark skies and light trespass. Mark your calendars for a Dark Sky presentation by Jim Webster of the NJ Astronomical Society on Friday July 24th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Cape May Point Arts & Science Center. This is a partnership event between the Borough Environmental Commission and Science Center. The Dark Sky presentation will be followed by Dr. Frank's usual summer Stargazing event at 8:30 pm.

Two issues have been brought to Public Works attention in the past week that I'd like to address:

- 1) We all love our beach mats that make it easier to traverse the beach entrances but, as you can imagine, our seemingly constant wind makes it a challenge to keep them sand-free. The Public Works team blows the sand off them every Friday and Monday.
- 2) There have been several inquiries about removing dead trees in the dunes. Please know that this has been brought to the attention of the Borough Tree Committee for consideration and to the Public Works team. Because the poison ivy is so pervasive in the summer, it is best done as a winter project. Please know too that DEP restricts tree management in the dunes. For example, dead trees must be hand cut and the roots must remain to stabilize the dunes. Also, no large equipment is allowed in the dunes -- let alone the challenge of safely cutting down trees with unstable sand underfoot. Suffice it to say, Public Works has this task on their work list for this coming winter.