

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

July 8, 2026

Start Time: 10:00 AM

End Time: 10:57 AM

The Environmental Commission of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Chair PM 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. Sean Burcher, Rich Johnson, Paula Massanari, Emelia Oleson, and Tom Reilly were present. Sandy Allison and Mary Lynn Mackenzie were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of TR, seconded by EO, the minutes of the June 10, 2026 EC meeting were approved by all present.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Commissioner Liaison Report:

Regarding Pavilion Circle, SY reported that the pesticide (Cross Check Bifenthrin) will not be used at this time following input from the EC members and Tree Committee. The iron in the water is still an ongoing problem. The irrigation system has been switched to public water as a stop gap measure to salvage the vegetation in the interim while continuing to look for a solution. SY reminded everyone that this is the third year in a row that drought has also been a large stressor on the trees and vegetation. Additionally, the Siberian Elms were fertilized in Circle Park, and Micky Riggins from Arborcare will be out to assess the loss of leaves for the maples in the circle.

Lake Lily continues to be treated by CLeanFlo enzyme products. SY received a quote for \$2,200 for a muck probe test to include 11 test locations. SY shared that the phragmites can be cut without a permit, and Bill is currently working to do so.

The beach entrances have been a consistent issue due to sand burial. The mats have been dug out and are attended to every morning to prevent build up. The Cape Ave entrance garden is available to be worked on as the Environmental Commission. SY is still researching when the bike lane on Sunset will be re-paved and will continue to find more information on the timing, width, and specific location of the bike lane.

Questions/feedback for SY:

- PM asked if CleanFlo has ever mentioned adding more bubblers due to the benefits. SY shared that they haven't mentioned whether it would be beneficial to have more, so she will follow up and ask.

Triangle Park: The six asters are on the rebound after being eaten by rabbits. The sweet gum also remains healthy. PM is going to get in touch with Church's Nursery about sourcing a black cherry.

Planning Board: PM opened the floor for questions related to what the PB will be discussing regarding redrawing the lot lines on three parcels that front east lake. Water and utilities will need to be put in on the parcels. TR shared there is also an easement on the property. Following discussion, PM suggested informing the PB that at this point the EC does not have any concerns, but in the future the EC would anticipate being contacted if there were potential impacts on the trees or Lake Lily regarding property changes. All EC members present agreed with this correspondence plan.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge: MLM sent the proposed Monarch Minutes. PM asked for any concerns regarding the minutes. No members had any concerns. PM drafted an article for Monarch Month with additions from SB. SB will share the shortened version. SY has the resolution to declare July Monarch Month on the next agenda.

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SY will take the butterfly sign design to have it approved by the Commissioners. PM and MLM will look into confirming a location for the sign starting at the horseshoe bed in Pavillion Circle Park. There were no concerns from members on the content of the sign. SY suggested a second sign in the rain garden at Borough Hall.

MLM asked if it would be more convenient for members to include update attachments on the regular agenda and minutes email instead of having them spread out among multiple different emails throughout the month. TR, RJ, SB, and EO felt the current system does not need to be changed. RJ asked after a Kiosk in the circle. SY put the project to the taxpayers, but the feedback was regarding a physical posting board useful when everyone receives their information electronically.

Stormwater Project: There have not been any updates. SY reported that the four tests are still moving forward, but they are waiting for a rain storm to happen to test at the first flush.

PM shared that community members had concerns over the fourth of July weekend about pet waste in their yards. PM asked if a communication should go out with information about pet waste, which has been done in the past. SY asked if it should be a more proactive effort with renters versus residents. Members overall didn't see a need for the article currently.

Dune Preservation: All the signs are now in place on the dunes. The article about staying off the dunes was sent to PM and will be able to move forward sharing with the general public.

Dark Skies: SB arranged Jim Webster to come July 24th at 6:30pm - 7:30pm to the CMPASC to speak about dark skies. It is free to the public, but there is also a ticketed stargazing event following the presentation. The CMPASC and the EC will send out a communication about the event. Although there is no cost for the speaker, PM suggested sending a donation to the Dark Skies group. Members were in favor of the donation. Members felt comfortable with a ~\$100-200 donation. PM called for a vote to approve a \$200 donation to the Dark Skies group. On motion of TR, seconded by SB, the donation was approved by all present.

NEW BUSINESS

Initial Dune Day discussion: PM received the proposal on the morning of this meeting and shared it with members. PM had questions regarding plantings around Lake Lily in areas cleared from invasives, specifically who'd be responsible for watering the new plantings, especially with the seasonal gardener having turned in his notice with the Borough. PM will share with the Dune Day planner that the EC has recruited tree watering volunteers from the community in the past, and will suggest they do the same. Without established caretakers, PM has reservations about the plantings. PM also suggested they add seaside goldenrod to the plan.

SY shared Bill's suggestion to mention the wild garden patch between Lighthouse and Cape entrances on Sunset since it does have an established irrigation system as potential alternative planting site.

EC members did not have anything further to include and agreed to the above in the response to the Dune Day Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PM received a text message from the wildlife gardener to meet on Saturday to discuss her proposal around what plantings around the pillars might look like, and PM invited other members to join.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of RJ, seconded by SB, the meeting was opened to the public. One member of the public was present, but did not wish to speak.

On motion of TR, seconded by SB, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully submitted, Courtney R. Lacombe, EC Secretary