

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 13, 2022 – 10 am

Start Time: 10:01 am

End Time: 11:27 am

EC Members present:

(x) Sandy Allison

(x) Paula Massanari

(x) Barb Bassett, Chair

(x) Isabelle Neary

(x) Commissioner Catherine Busch

(x) Emelia Oleson

(x) Elise Geiger

Sunshine Law Statement – This meeting was properly advertised in the Cape May Star & Wave and duly posted at the Borough Municipal Building in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

AUGUST MEETING DATE

BB shared that Kelly Redington (KR) will not be available on August 10, 2022 to take minutes, and asked if everyone would be available August 3, 2022 instead. When no one objected, it was determined that KR would work with BB take care of proper notification of the date change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion of SA, seconded by IN, the minutes of June 8, 2022 were approved.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

- Pavilion Circle: EG provided an update on the work that continues in Pavilion Circle and thanked all volunteers who have contributed. EG asked if we can turn the completed beds over to the Bedfellows managed by the CMPTPA. There is currently a waiting list of volunteers, so EG will write an email to Chris Meyerink (CM) to help arrange. BB asked if there are any guidelines about what can/cannot be planted (native vs non-native vs invasive). CB thinks that since the CMPTA owns the program there would need to be discussion with them on parameters of what should or should not be planted. When asked by BB if it is acceptable to plant this time of year, PM replied that you can with adequate watering. CB stated that if more plants are purchased at Tuckahoe Nursery, Public Works (PW) can stop by to pick up purchases on the EC's behalf since they pass the nursery when transporting our leaf bags. Finally, EG and CB agreed they will work together to set up a date to get everyone together for planting.
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge: PM sent BB and IN an article on recommended fall plantings. This will be launched at the beginning of August and supports the pledge as a public action. PM asked if we should consider seed packets as a giveaway to the community next spring. CB suggested we could also do plugs of seaside goldenrod which is easy to grow and difficult to kill. Lastly, on August 16 there is a zoom seminar related to the MMP. If anyone wants to participate BB will forward the notice.
- Salem Oak: BB shared the Salem Oak's certificate of authenticity on the screen as well as the latest pictures of its growth. It remains with BB; CB suggested we should plant next spring.
- Commissioner Liaison:
 - CB announced that PW continues to trim back trees and brush in the right of way which was announced in an email newsletter to those who subscribe. We have tried new beach mats at St. Pete's, Coral and Lehigh beaches. If they hold up well they will be added to other entrances next year. CB is looking for feedback on the mats which are also being used in Cape May. SA shared that she was disappointed the mats weren't tried at Brainard or Stites.
 - There are two grants that we have applied for and received. The first is the community tree management plan grant. We will be doing the resolution at this week's Regular Meeting to sign the agreement with the State. The next time core training is offered, others can attend like EG and CB did. The second one we received is the Community Energy grant. Administrator Ed

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Grant (AEG) is the contact for the borough. Ed and CB participated in a seminar that covered what we do with the grant once received. This grant will provide the funds to hire an energy consultant to help us develop an approved plan.

- IN asked if the EC would be involved with the planning of the veteran's memorial that has been under discussion. CB said the group is being led by AEG and if someone from the EC wants to be involved they can offer their interest to him.
- EO asked about the trees that were cut in the dunes between Lehigh and Whildin and whether there has been any follow up. CB stated that EO should contact Mayor Moffatt for an update as violations fall under his purview. CB went on to say that as part of the tree management plan we want to better understand how to manage dead trees in the dunes. The EC unanimously agreed we should not make any changes until the tree management plan is in place providing formal direction on what steps should be taken. PM asked about whether we should send a reminder out why people should not cut dune trees and the fines associated with them. BB agreed we should send something out with the key point being that it should be educational so people understand why this is important.
- EG asked CB about the concrete pad poured at Lake Lily. CB replied that there were originally plans for a viewing platform, and more is to come in the near future.
- Planning Board: BB discussed that the Planning Board will be looking at community light and noise and has volunteered to be part of any committee created by Chair Mary Kelly to investigate this issue further.
- Green Team: BB and CB presented an update on the GT. We are up for recertification next June (application due May 23), so she will be sending a list of actions to the EC to get feedback on which items we should pursue. As mentioned before, we need 150 points which include 70 points that won't expire, 55 points that will expire and need updated and 50 more points that will expire and we need to decide if we want to do these or choose other actions. BB, CB and KR will be responsible for updating items on the SNJ website. BB asked members to look at the website and become more familiar with it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dune Day: We have received the Year 9 Dune Day plan for 2022 prepared by Jonathan Wescott which was sent to EC members prior to the meeting. CB stated that Bill Gibson would prefer nothing more be planted at Pearl because it is difficult for lifeguards to get between stations at high tide. If anyone has additional feedback they should email comments, and a final version will go to the Commissioners for approval at a future borough meeting. The EC thanks Jonathan for his ongoing support of this important initiative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BB announced that Margaret (Peg) Fraatz (PF) will be appointed by the Mayor at the July 14, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The EC welcomes her as a new member.

PUBLIC PORTION/ADJOURNMENT

On motion of EG, seconded by SA, the meeting was opened to the public. When no one wished to speak, IS made the motion to adjourn at 11:46 AM. This was seconded by PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Redington, Deputy Clerk