

**OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**Roll Call** – The following members were present:

Name	Title	Present/Absent	Name	Title	Present/Absent
Richard Bernardini	Chairperson	Present	Elizabeth Lehman	Commissioner	Absent
Marnie Niederhofer	Commissioner	Present	James Edwards	Commissioner	Absent
Caitlin Quirk	Commissioner	Present	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Absent
	Alternate #1	Absent	Harley Cummins	Alternate # 2	Present
Delaney Brogan	Student Liaison	Absent		Student Liaison	Absent
	Student Liaison	Absent	Anika Deshpande	Student Liaison	Present

**Open Public Meetings Announcement** – Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve the minutes for the meeting on June 11, 2024 was made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by Harley Cummins. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

**Public Comments**

- Attendees
  - Bill O'Neill - general interest

**Pending Business**

- Submitted Plan Review
  - 2 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 4 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed.
- Student Environmental Association
  - Ocean City High School
    - Elections were held for next year, Joseph Heng - President; Arden Hazlet - Vice President
  - Mainland High School
    - no comments
  - Students to reapply for 2024-25
- ANJEC
  - no activity

- Discussion of future Commission activity
  - Lectures
    - Sustainable Business Practices -Caitlin Quirk
      - October 3 @ 7:00 pm, Mahoney Lecture Hall, OCFPL
    - Future Topics
      - TBD
    - Commission meeting talk
      - CMCMUA Recycling - to be scheduled upon completion of recycling plant upgrades
  - Storm Inlet warning markers
    - Commissioners are willing to volunteer for more area installations.
      - Public Works compiling info for install.
- Monarch Waystations
  - The Shores
    - Garden dedication to be determined
  - Tabernacle
  - Bayside Center
  - Commissioners to identify potential locations for gardens
- Eco-Recreation
  - Final drafts on paddle sports, biking, birding, and fishing are completed.
    - A restructuring of the OCNJ.US website is under consideration to accommodate our program and others.
- Crook Horn Creek Nature Trail and Storm Resilience
  - The project has been suspended for further review.
    - Administration advised that the viability of the project is in study with consideration of no build-up or raising of the pathway including recommendations proposed by the Commission. Final plans will be presented to the Commission and public.
- Community Monarch/Pollinator Waystations.
  - Betsy Lehman prepared an outreach document to locate private pollinator gardens in Ocean City; document in review by Administration
    - Resources to be investigated to promote
- City projects to monitor
  - Bayside Center
    - Science Center, LEED Certification
      - requested current plans for review
  - 16th and Haven lot
    - Public forum for uses
- Microplastics - Margate information flyer example was forwarded to Construction Official for inclusion with building permits.

- Further discussion of microplastics was held, Commission recommended an Ordinance be prepared for enforcement of debris control, information provided to Administration including neighboring towns that have enacted or have pending resolutions or ordinances .
- OCUT Book Club 7/16/24 7:00 pm, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster”
- H. Cummins questioned PFAS content in Ocean City’s water system. R. Bernardini will reach out to NJ American Water for information.
  - New Jersey American Water reports no detection of PFAS in their water system
- Commissioners questioned the final image/landscaping treatment of the new 34th Street Pump Station.
  - Area in study by the Administration for final conditions

### **New Business**

- Green Fair 8/16/24 at the Music Pier. Craft and information materials was reviewed
- “Skip the Stuff” program will be investigated by C. Quirk for optional take out dining accessories.
- With the resignation of Catherine Cipolla, Doug Blackman has been elevated to Commissioner from Alternate.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by Caitlin Quirk.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6:30 PM, in person at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, Card Room, 1735 Simpson Avenue.**