

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, August 12, 2025

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	Present
Marnie Niederhofer	Commissioner	Present	James Edwards	Commissioner	Present
Caitlin Quirk	Commissioner	Absent	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Absent
Cyndy Legowski	Alternate #1	Present	Harley Cummins	Alternate # 2	Present
	Student Liaison	Absent	Joseph Heng	Student Liaison	Present
				Student Liaison	Absent

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 meetings on June 10 and July 8, 2025 was made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by James Edwards. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- Attendees:
 - Jason Walsh - Stockton University student
 - Dennis Davidson - 855 St. James Place, microplastics

Pending Business

1. Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 5 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 1 Treatment Works, 4 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed. No adverse comments.
2. Student Environmental Association
 - a. Ocean City High School
 - i. Red Cup Project: In the process of getting a pilot program in place in the high school for morning coffee.
 1. SEA is seeking grants/funds for reusable cup purchase
 - ii. Composting - High School courtyards may be available
 - iii. Seed Library – Seed Library Box was created by the High School Wood Shop Teacher and currently in place in the high school library.
 1. seed refills done
3. ANJEC
 - a. Open Space Grant was approved for North End Veterans Park garden
4. Monarch Waystation
 - a. Community Waystations
 - i. A smaller seed library is being prepared for the library at the Research Desk.
 1. An email signup sheet is present to create a “Trail of Gardens” within the City.
 - a. B. Lehman prepared a letter for distribution to email enrollees to list their gardens at pollinator-pathway.org
 - i. J. Fenton distributed the letter
 - b. North End Veterans Park
 - i. Collaboration in progress with the OC Garden Civic Assoc., OC Garden Club and OCEC
 1. This tract was confirmed as a City property. Plan was developed for City review and was accepted.
 2. Applied for ANJEC Open Space Grant
 3. D. Blackman researching plant availability and schedule
 - c. The Bayside Center garden has been staked for sunflowers.
5. Lectures/Education Program
 - i. Emergency Preparedness on October 7, 2025.
6. Eagle Scout Service Project-Wilson Stauffer
 - a. Wilson is working directly with the Tabernacle, Shores and Mayor's Aide.
 - i. Received approval for all sites, assembling for installation
7. Food Waste/ Composting
 - a. Discussions in progress
8. H. Cummins attended the 4th Ward meeting on 5/17/25, he made recommendations for native plantings and pollinator garden inclusion for the 34th Street Gateway improvements.
9. A-C Hub of Sustainable Jersey will be holding a lecture on Arts and Creative Culture, date TBA
10. ACT Engineers advised the Upweller is stocked.
 - a. Weekly Saturday 9:00 am maintenance and counting of oysters will be held until November, when oysters are harvested by NJDEP.

New Business

1. Tabernacle Landscaping - R. Bernardini met with Tabernacle staff and reviewed their goals for the property. Landscape Architect and Arborist resources were provided for their information and implementation.
2. Green Fair - staffing required for the tabling event. 8/22 8:30am to 1:00pm
 - a. Crafts, seeds, material deterioration, and gardening info will be provided
3. Microplastics - the City passed a new Regulations for Construction Projects Ordinance which includes control of microplastics, fiberglass and other issues.
 - a. Enforcement procedures to be investigated
4. M. Niederhofer provided an overview of pending changes to the NJ REAL regulations on flood prone areas. Implementation anticipated in 2026.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by John Aitken and seconded by Betsy Lehman. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:30 PM, in person at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, Room S107 Senior Lounge/Card Room, 1735 Simpson Avenue.