

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, October 14, 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	Absent
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Present
Cyndy Legowski	Alternate #1	Absent	Harley Cummins	Alternate # 2	Absent
Zarian Cabalo	Student Liaison	Present	Joseph Heng	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 meetings on September 9, 2025 was made by Doug Blackman and seconded by Betsy Lehman. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- Attendees:
 - Don Otto – general interest and upweller

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 1 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 2 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed. No adverse comments.

- 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. Toy Crates – development of the program is in progress to submit to Administration for review and approval.
- ANJEC
 - a. Open Space Grant was approved for North End Veterans Park Garden.
 - b. “Best of NJ’s Outdoors” program will include an opportunity to view and learn about our pollinator gardens and beach plum programs.
- Monarch Waystation
 - a. 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. The plan was developed for City review and was accepted.
 - 2. D. Blackman researching plant availability and schedule for Spring 2026 installation.
 - 3. Irrigation system operation confirmed with area coverage.
 - b. Seed harvesting in progress by Betsy Lehman.
 - c. Potential locations
 - i. Tabernacle sign at 6th and Asbury.
 - ii. Ocean City Welcome sign at 55th Street and 34th St Gateway.
- Lectures/Education Program
 - i. Emergency Preparedness on October 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the library lecture hall with 21 attendees.
- A-C Hub of Sustainable Jersey will be holding a lecture on Arts and Creative Culture on October 23, 2025 at the Brigantine Community Center.
- Upweller
 - a. Weekly Saturday 9:00am maintenance and counting of oysters will be held until November, when oysters are harvested by NJDEP.
- Microplastics – the City passed a new Regulations for Construction Projects Ordinance which includes control of microplastics, fiberglass and other issues.
 - a. Enforcement procedures have been requested from administration.
- Noise abatement of gas-powered leaf blowers to be investigated.
- The Utility Advisory Commission had scheduled a tour of the Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority recycling plant and landfill on October 15th, and EC members were invited to attend; however, the tour is to rescheduled due to impact of last week’s storm.
- The EC Annual Report draft was presented to Council on September 25th.
- Family Fun Day February 14, 2026 – commissioners to review and recommend exhibitors and crafts.
 - a. Mrs. Heng volunteered to lead new crafts.

New Business

- Beach Sweep, 10/18/25.
- M. Niederhofer noted that Public Access Funds from waterfront mitigation fees may be available for project use. Ideas discussed included Crook Horn Creek Trail and Tennessee Ave. boat ramp area. Concept development required for presentation to Administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Jim Edwards and seconded by Marnie Niederhofer. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 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.