

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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	Harley Cummins	Commissioner	Present
Marnie Niederhofer	Commissioner	Present	James Edwards	Commissioner	Absent
Cyndy Legowski	Commissioner	Present	John Aitken	Commissioner	Absent
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Present
Jason Walsh	Alternate #1	Absent	Anthony Verde	Alternate # 2	Absent
Zarian Cabalo	Student Liaison	Absent	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 February 10, 2026 was made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by Cyndy Legowski. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- None.

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 4 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 3 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed. No adverse comments.
- Student Environmental Association
 - a. Ocean City High School
 - i. Red Cup Project

1. Developing a public relations program to inspire other school districts.
 2. Customizing cups for personal identification and discount program.
- ii. Recycle Art Competition
 - iii. Beach Toy Crates
 1. Administration approved the installation at 2-3 locations, to be identified by SEA students.
 2. H. Cummins will coordinate construction of the boxes from pallets.
 - iv. Seed libraries will be set up in spring.
- 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.
 - i. Program was selected for a site review by ANJEC, to be scheduled.
 - Monarch Waystation
 - a. North End Veterans Park
 - i. Collaboration in progress with the OC Garden Civic Assoc., OC Garden Club and OCEC.
 1. Plant material invoice to be acquired for processing payment for delivery in mid-May.
 2. Coordinating with new entrance sign installation. Revised grading of the area is anticipated.
 - b. Potential locations
 - i. Tabernacle sign at 6th Street & Asbury Avenue; Ocean City Welcome sign at 55th Street; and 34th Street Gateway.
 - c. Bayside Center Garden spring clean-up TBD.
 - Lectures/Education Program
 - a. 2026 Family Fun Day on February 14th was deemed a success.
 - Noise abatement of gas-powered leaf blowers to be investigated.
 - a. Administration requested we defer this due to strong opposition from landscapers.
 - R. Bernardini advised DPW to provide locations for storm drain medallion installations.
 - ACT Engineers advised that information has been forwarded to NJDOT. Approval of the Categorical Exclusion Document under the Federal NEPA process is anticipated; bidding to follow; and construction fall of 2026.
 - M. Miederhofer noted that Cape May, Ocean and Monmouth Counties have sued to repeal the new REAL regulations due to government overreach.
 - Atlantic-Cape Hub will hold an event on Civic Engagement on March 25th.

New Business

- Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission will have the NJ BPU Rate Payer Advocate present at their next meeting on April 25th.
- Cape May Point Arts and Science Center’s Third Annual Marine Science Symposium May 29th – 31st.
- 2026 NJ Sustainability Summit May 15th.
- Sick or Dead Wild Birds reporting to NJDEP

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Doug Blackman and seconded by Marnie Niederhofer. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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.