

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, April 14, 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	Absent	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	Present	Anthony Verde	Alternate # 2	Present
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 March 10, 2026 was made by Harley Cummins and seconded by Tony Verde. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- Annalize Matina - SEA student
- Dave Winslow – Ocean City Councilman

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 3 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 5 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed.
 - i. 141-147 Haven Ave – Building and Impervious coverage exceed requirements.

- ii. 3308 Bay Ave. Verizon Cell Tower was discussed, litigation settlement location, a lighthouse feature may be added to shield top components.
 - iii. No findings or comments on other submissions.
 - Student Environmental Association
 - a. Ocean City High School
 - i. Red Cup Project
 - 1. OC Sentinel article was noted, congratulations for a job well done.
 - ii. Recycle Art Competition
 - iii. Beach Toy Crates
 - 1. Administration approved the installation at 2-3 locations.
 - a. Students identified 1st Street, 18th Street and 40th Street locations, to be forwarded to Administration for acceptance.
 - 2. H. Cummins will coordinate construction of the boxes from pallets.
 - a. A mock-up was constructed, team assembly date to be determined, miscellaneous materials received, Azek cut off material to be donated by Halliday & Leonard for signage.
 - iv. Seed libraries will be set up in spring, seeds in hand.
 - 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 order in progress, awaiting city completion of lighting and irrigation to schedule installation
 - 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 completed.
 - d. B. Lehman restocked the OC Library seed library.
 - Lectures/Education Program
 - a. R. Bernardini will present an overview of the Environmental Commission activities to Ocean City AARP on 4/17/26.
 - R. Bernardini advised DPW to provide locations for storm drain medallion installations.
 - Crook Horn Creek Trail
 - a. 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.
 - Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission will have the NJ BPU Rate Payer Advocate present at their next meeting on April 15th.

New Business

- Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission will have a tour of the Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority recycling center and landfill on June 17, 2026, EC Commissioners are welcome to attend.
- Environmental clean-up is continuing at the 11th & West Substation by JCP&L. The remediation plan was previously reviewed by the EC.
- R. Bernardini promoted the Rutgers University “Earth Day Everyday” program for Commissioner participation.
- J. Heng shared that he will participate in the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JC NERR), managed by Rutgers University, Team Calypso will be collecting data around local back bays using sensors and drones to view and scan quantitative data. From there, the team will use the findings to connect potential solutions to their respective problems in their research presentation.
- Jason Walsh shared that he will participate in Stockton University’s Coastal Research Center. His role is a survey swimmer where he will record elevation points along a beach profile from the dunes to approximately 200-300 feet offshore. This is part of their New Jersey Beach Profile Network project.
- A. Verde shared his Certificate for finding a tagged horseshoe crab that migrated from the Delaware Bay to Pecks Beach, Ocean City.
- R. Bernardin will confirm with ACT Engineers continuation of the Upweller program.
- R. Bernardini provided an overview of a reusable bag recycling program by Goatote. Goatote cleans, sanitizes and redistributes bags to food banks/pantries as part of a New Jersey Clean Community program. Info to be forwarded to Administration for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Cyndy Legowski and seconded by Doug Blackman. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 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.