

**OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

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

**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
Doug Blackman	Alternate # 1	Present	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
	Alternate # 2	Absent	Catherine Cipolla	Commissioner	Present
Bradford Jungles	Commissioner	Present	Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent
Isabelle Heng	Student Liaison	Present	Olivia 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 meeting on February 9, 2020 was made by John Aitken and seconded by Marnie Niederhofer. Those eligible to vote adopted unanimously.

**Public Comments**

- None
- Brian McPeak attended the meeting without comment.

**Pending Business**

- Submitted Plan Review
  - There were 2 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 3 Zoning, 1 NJAW Treatment Works, and 1 Planning Board submissions for review, none were noted with comments.
  - 50 Tennessee Ave was noted that an environmental contamination clearance be provided due to prior use as a paint testing facility.
    - hearing not scheduled to date
- Native Planting Project
  - Beach Plums are available for planting, locations to be verified with Administration.
    - Administration advised that 57th Street and Central Ave beach access road area may be planted. Initial discussions with Jalma Farms have been made, potential scheduling for mid-March to mid-April for a Commission and Student activity only, not public, all subject to Covid restrictions.
    - tentative plans in progress depending on Covid restrictions, GO/NO GO decision pending.

- High School students working on encouraging eco-friendly practices in the school.
  - Isabel and Olivia Heng were commended for organizing a beach clean up.
- Informational flyers/fact sheets
  - Six flyers have been prepared and submitted to the City for distribution
  - Printed versus web-based distribution to be investigated
    - Flyers topics
      - Flood Water hazards - Jim Edwards, Marnie Niederhofer and Brad Jungles to research health and safety info.
      - Reusable bags
      - Monarch butterflies and Milkweed
      - Composting
- ANJEC
  - Catherine Cipolla to review Grant opportunity for Community Gardens
    - Administration advised that multiple groups have expressed interest
  - Rick Bernardini encouraged all Commissioners to monitor ANJEC communications and opportunities.
    - 2021 Fundamentals Webinars 2/27-3/23/2021
    - Rain Gardens 3/4 or 18/21
- Discussion of future Commission activity
  - Lectures - ON HOLD
    - Wetlands Protection
    - Gardening and Composting
    - Osprey habitat
    - Solar power and LED - coordinate with Atlantic City Electric
    - Visit to the high school hydroponic garden.
    - Passive rainwater control, such as bioswales
    - CCMUA recycling update
  - Milkweed seed distribution and Monarch butterflies, possible Fall 2021
  - Family Fun Day activity subject to Covid restrictions.
- Shooter Island Restoration Shellfish Upweller
  - ACT Engineers is seeking volunteers for assistance with operation and maintenance of shellfish upweller at the Bayside Center.
    - Several Commissioners and students attended the Upweller dedication. Unit is now suspended for the winter. Mussel growing operations will commence in the spring, volunteer opportunities to maintain the unit will be announced.
- Grants
  - Catherine Cipolla identified a 'GroMoreGoodGrassroots' grant.
  - 2021 Open Space Stewardship Grants
- Nature Book tour and/or scavenger hunt to be investigated associated with Bird Sanctuary.

- Partnership with the OC Library established. Project details forwarded to Administration for approval. Fall implementation anticipated.

### **New Business**

- Orsted Ocean Wind wind farm
  - Rick Bernardini noted the increased discussions by City Council on the wind farm. In an effort to bring objectivity to concerns he will develop a summary of issues to be distributed to Commissioners for further research to assist in the response to Orsted public outreach scheduled for this summer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Brad Jungles and seconded by John Aitken.

**Next Meeting: Tentative - Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM.**