

**OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, June 8, 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 April 13, 2020 was made by Catherine Cipolla and seconded by Marnie Niederhofer. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously. May 11, 2021 meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum.

Public Comments

- The following attended the meeting to observe the Commission’s discussion on Offshore Wind.
 - Ric Bertch - Protectourcoastnj.com
 - Clare Moloney - Clean Ocean Action
 - Brian McPeak - Orsted representative

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - May 2021 - 2 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 1 Treatment Works, 2 Zoning and 0 Planning Board submissions for review.
 - 601-603 Wesley Ave. recommend denial due to increased impervious coverage. Recommend removal of pavers and restore lawn areas per sketch.
 - June 2021 - 3 CAFRA/NJDEP, 2 Zoning and 0 Planning Board submissions for review.
 - 404 E Surf Rd - -EC does not endorse growth in building and impervious coverage. Defers final decision to Zoning Board as a hardship case

- Native Planting Project
 - Beach Plums were made available from Jalma Farms for planting on April 17 at 11:00 am at 57th Street and Central Avenue beach access road. Student Environmental Club and Commissioners planted approximately 50 plants.

- High School students working on encouraging eco-friendly practices in the school.
 - Students are assisting the maintenance of shellfish Upweller at the Bayside Center on Thursdays at 1:00 pm. The Upweller received 20,000 oyster and 10,000 clam seedlings for growth development.
 - The Commission commended Issabelle Heng for her activity contributions as she heads off for college.

- 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 training opportunities.
 - Ocean City had the first reading of the updated Storm Water Ordinance on 4/8/21, it was passed on second reading.

- 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
 - C. Cipolla offered to provide supplies to install a 10'X10' prototype butterfly garden within a city playground. It was forwarded to the administration for consideration.
 - A site at the Tabernacle will be investigated as a base for a Kids Gardening Grant.

- Green Fair August 27, 2021
 - C. Cipolla and students to organize crafts and milkweed kits
 - Family Fun Day activity-TBD
- Grants
 - ANJEC Stewardship grant application and data requirements in review and development by Catherine Cipolla for 2022.
- Nature Book tour and/or scavenger hunt to be investigated associated with Bird Sanctuary.
 - Partnership with the OC Library established. Project details were forwarded to Administration for approval. Fall implementation anticipated.
- The Commission will recommend that the City incorporate a rain garden and butterfly garden into the open space plan for the newly acquired property on Haven Ave between 16th and 17th Street. R. Bernardini forwarded a memo.
- Orsted Ocean Wind wind farm
 - Rick Bernardini presented the Commission's statement of support of OSW to fight climate change with many reservations for the purpose of focusing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement to BOEM on 4/15/21 and City Council on 4/22/21.
 - City Council is investigating a referendum on offshore wind. As such, the Commission held a lively discussion on how to inform the public on the many aspects of OSW.

New Business

- Marnie Niederhofer noted the many people enjoying the birds that stop over in the rookery at the Visitor Center. She will investigate a field guide signage or other information that could be developed to identify birds.
- A tour of the ACUA wind farm and wastewater treatment plant is scheduled for Friday, June 10th at 10:30 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Doug Blackman and seconded by Catherine Cipolla.

Next Meeting: Tentative - Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM, via ZOOM or in person(TBD).