

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, September 14, 2021

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
Doug Blackman	Alternate # 1	Present	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
	Alternate # 2	Absent	Catherine Cipolla	Commissioner	Present
Bradford Jungles	Commissioner	Absent	Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent
	Student Liaison	Absent	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 August 10, 2021 was made by Catherine Cipolla and seconded by Marnie Niederhofer. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- The following attended the meeting.
 - None

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - 4 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 5 Zoning and 0 Planning Board submissions were reviewed; no adverse comments.
- Students are assisting the maintenance of shellfish Upweller at the Bayside Center on Thursdays. The Upweller received 20,000 oyster and 10,000 clam seedlings for growth development.
 - The shellfish program will end in October. Shellfish are to be seeded in the bay.
- Informational flyers/fact sheets
 - Six flyers have been prepared
 - Commission reviewed printed versions and approved distribution
 - 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.
 - 9/17 Municipal Storm Water regulations
 - 10/19-22 Environmental Congress via Zoom, City is processing the fee for Commissioner attendance
- Discussion of future Commission activity
 - Lectures -
 - Wetlands Protection
 - Gardening and Composting, spring '22
 - Osprey habitat
 - Solar power and LED - coordinate with Atlantic City Electric
 - Passive rainwater control, such as bioswales
 - CCMUA recycling update, spring 2022
 - 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 by the Administration and approved for a site at the Tabernacle.
 - Little Seeds Pollinator grant application was submitted in association with the Tabernacle preschool Ark program, not granted.
 - Tabernacle installation scheduled for 10/5 at 11:00 am
 - Green Fair August 27, 2021
 - C. Cipolla reported active participation at the event; activities included 'reuse' crafts, seedlings, recycling poster and samples. High school students were invaluable assistants.
 - Family Fun Day activity
 - Commission voted to hold the event on Presidents' Day weekend 2/19/2022.
 - Zoo animals to be investigated for participation
 - Students to develop environmental games
 - Seed planting and give away
 - Crafts
- Grants
 - ANJEC Stewardship grant application and data requirements in review and development by Catherine Cipolla for 2022.
 - Additional Butterfly gardens at playgrounds
 - Bird Guides
- Nature Book tour and/or scavenger hunt to be investigated associated with Bird Sanctuary.
 - Partnership with the OC Library established.

- Event opening scheduled for 10/15 at 4:30 pm at the Library with the Wetlands Institute.
 - A DPW Work Order has been issued to clear the bikeway fence area of overgrowth.
- Orsted Ocean Wind wind farm
 - Orsted has offered to hold briefings for the Commission. Members identified areas of interest for scheduling Zoom discussions.
- 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.
 - Marnie will investigate coordination with the Wetlands Institute.
- A tour of the Ocean City CMCMUA treatment plant was held on 8/23.
- OCEC Annual Report was delivered to Council on August 26th.
- Social Media - Betsy Lehman will develop an Instagram page to focus on our activities and public information. It will include no option for public comment.

New Business

- Students are interested in developing turtle warning signage.
- In anticipation of the ban on reusable bags scheduled for May 2022, investigate issuing reusable bags and information programs.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Jim Edwards and seconded by Catherine Cipolla.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 6:30 PM, in person (no Zoom) at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, 1735 Simpson Avenue.