

**OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Minutes – Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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	Absent
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 September 14, 2021 was made by Jim Edwards and seconded by Betsy Lehman. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

**Public Comments**

- The following attended the meeting.
  - Lauren Huber, Stockton Student observer

**Pending Business**

- Submitted Plan Review
  - 1 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 4 Zoning, 0 Planning Board, and Ocean Wind LOI Upper Twp. 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 November. Shellfish are to be seeded in the bay.
  - There was a pump problem which resulted in a partial loss of oysters. Oysters grown in the bay were oversized compared to cultured.
  - SEA will develop signage for Turtle awareness
- Informational flyers/fact sheets
  - Six flyers have been prepared
    - Commission reviewed printed versions and approved distribution, 4 of 6 are approved by Administration, 2 pending.

- Flyers topics
      - Flood Water hazards - Jim Edwards
      - Reusable bags
      - Monarch butterflies and Milkweed-C. Cipolla
      - Composting
- ANJEC
  - Catherine Cipolla to review Grant opportunity for Community Gardens
    - Administration advised that multiple groups have expressed interest
  - Doug Blackman will monitor ANJEC communications and training opportunities and forward to the Commissioners for information and participation.
    - 10/19-22/21 Environmental Congress via Zoom, City has processed the fee for Commissioner attendance. R. Bernardini encouraged all Commissioners to attend as many sessions as possible.
- 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
    - Army Corps of Engineer Flood Barrier
  - 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.
      - Tabernacle installation on 10/5 was a great success with ARK Preschooler involvement and received press coverage.
  - Family Fun Day activity
    - Commission voted to hold the event on Presidents' Day weekend 2/19/2022.
      - Cape May County Zoo animals
      - Students to develop environmental games
      - Seed planting and give away
      - Crafts
      - CMCMUA Recycling
      - "Trash Talk" videos
      - Education - flyers, decomposition board and samples, Plastic bags
- 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.
  - Book pages were mounted on the fence on 10/10. A DPW Work Order is complete clearing the bikeway fence area of overgrowth.
- Orsted Ocean Wind wind farm
  - A public forum is scheduled for 11/6/21 at the Music Pier.
- 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.
- Social Media - Betsy Lehman will develop an Instagram and Facebook page to focus on our activities and public information. It will include no option for public comment or responses.

### **New Business**

- In anticipation of the ban on reusable bags scheduled for May 2022, investigate issuing reusable bags and information programs.
- NJ Coastal Resilience Collaborative will be researched by D. Blackman, J. Aitken, and M. Niederhofer.
- OC Dept. of Public Works Beach Sweep will be held 10/23/21.
- A FEMA presentation of Substantial Damage Determinations will be held in 2 sessions, info was distributed for participation.
- B. Lehman will investigate a new logo for OCEC.
- R. Bernardini will be presenting a 2022 OCEC Budget for Administration consideration.
- B. Lehman noted Upper Twp. activities, R. Bernardini will contract Ralph Cooper for potential collaboration.

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

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:30 PM, in person (no Zoom) at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, 1735 Simpson Avenue.**