

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, November 9, 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	Absent	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	Absent

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 October 12, 2021 was made by Betsy Lehman and seconded by Jim Edwards. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- The following attended the meeting.
 - None

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - 0 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 4 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 Upweller will be decommissioned for the season on Saturday, 11/13 at 10:00 am all are welcome to attend.
 - 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 - draft prepared for review
 - 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, attendees commented on content.
- 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
 - Playground installation to be further investigated
 - Family Fun Day activity
 - The Commission voted to hold the event on Presidents' Day weekend 2/19/2022. The Senior Center is reserved.
 - Cape May County Zoo animals
 - Students to develop environmental games
 - Seed planting and give away
 - Crafts
 - CMCMA 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 scavenger hunt was installed at the Bird Sanctuary.
 - Pages will be removed 11/12/21. B. Lehman will report on activity.
- Orsted Ocean Wind wind farm
 - Commissioners discussed the 11/4/21 Orsted Zoom call and Public Meeting held on 11/6/21.
- 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 page to focus on our activities and public information. It will include no option for public comment or responses.
- 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 was held 10/23/21; R. Bernardini and B. Lehman participated.
- B. Lehman will investigate a new logo for OCEC.
- R. Bernardini presented a 2022 OCEC Budget for Administration consideration.
- B. Lehman noted Upper Twp. activities, R. Bernardini is in contract with Ralph Cooper for potential collaboration.

New Business

- The North End Beach Wildlife Refuge area was noted by a citizen in contact with R. Bernardini. A presentation is anticipated in the future for potential action.
- Beach Plum planting will be investigated for the spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Marnie Neiderhofer and seconded by John Aitken.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:30 PM, in person (no Zoom) at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, 1735 Simpson Avenue.