

## **West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes May 3, 2017**

**Call to Order:** 7:05 PM

**Roll Call:** Susan Crossan, Joe Grottola, Chris Isenhardt, Barbara Lamb, Hilary Pritchard (chair), Louise Zemaitis

**Absent:** Tom Brockett, Trish Miller, Harriet Wilson

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Barbara to accept the April minutes and seconded by Chris.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Brockett was absent, but emailed to let the EC know that the balance, as of April 27, is \$16,647.84. This past month's expenditures were \$460 for ANJEC dues, \$420 to Media in Motion for community Yard Sale signs, and \$200 to Janet Payne for PR work for Pat Sutton's talk kid's movie night.

A motion was made by Chris to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Susan.

### **Planning Board:**

A letter has been received about Block 50, lot 1.08 requesting an existing structure that is being built. Susan volunteered to look at the application package and propose comments.

Hilary invited Paul Mulligan, Planning Board member (former chair), to lend EC members guidance on how to become more effective as a commission when dealing with wetlands regulations and variances. The Planning Board has recently been working on sewer and storm surge issues with DEP consultants. Pacific Avenue has become the area with the most potential for flooding. They are discussing improvements to be made with pumps and sluice gates in the area.

NJ DEP was been deeded 2 acres at end of Morris in WCM. That land is now part of Higbee Beach WMA. The borough of WCM owns 9 lots adjacent to this area. There are members of the community who feel that it would be a win, win if Green Acres could acquire the land.

Hilary asked if the borough should, once again, propose an Open Space preservation tax to help fund future projects. The last attempt failed.

Hilary asked if there is anything that the WCM EC should know about Beach Plum farm.

## **Old Business**

### Farmers Market 2017 -

Louise requested that landscaper Josh Nemeth be considered as one of the Farmer's Market vendors. He was told that there were already two vendors with native plants. She feels that an EC and Shade Tree sponsored event should have as much influence on plantings as possible.

EC members need to coordinate with Lauren for scheduling. Trish set up Google document to organize sign-ups for EC/Shade Tree space to be used by local environmental education groups.

Open Space lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Update - Chris is going to give Brittany Dobrzynski for NJ Audubon the okay to start work.

Green Team - Tom absent.

Coordinated Bicycle Path Initiative/bicycle safety initiative - The county is creating a path which will come from the Cape May County Park and Zoo and south. South of canal it has been proposed that it will go through the electric company right of way (next to the Garrett family TNC preserve), to public works road to Park Blvd, and ending at Perry. Something needs to be done at that point. There are plans for a roundabout.

There is a public meeting 11 am -1 pm on June 3rd at Cape May City Hall. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Cape May and Cape May Point Borough will be discussed.

WCM EC sponsored public events - Borough Wide Yard Sale signs are up.

## **New Business**

Cape Island's Community Wildlife Habitat dedication is May 19, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Nature Center of Cape May.

Chris made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm, Barbara seconded.

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting will be June 7th, 6:30 pm