

## **West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes February 7, 2018**

**Call to Order:** 6:35 PM

**Roll Call:** Hilary Pritchard (chair), Tom Bocket, Susan Crossan, Joe Grotola, Bob Hewitt, Chris Isenhardt, Trish Miller, Janet Payne, Louise Zemaitis, John Francis (Commissioner)

**Guests:** Ed Creenan, Susan Hoffman (WCM Shade Tree Commission secretary), and Wayne Hoffman (WCM Shade Tree Commission chair)

Hilary offered Susan Hoffman the opportunity to speak about the West Cape May Shade Tree Commission.

Community Forestry Management Plan - Outlines goals of the Shade Tree Commission and tactics over the next 5 years. Looks at endangered species, over populated plants and removal, and native plant education. Public Education is one of the main goals. Would like to ask WCM EC to partner on projects.

Farmer's Market - The Shade Tree Commission does not feel that their presence was a good use of time at the Farmer's Market booth. They have asked Josh Nemeth, The Wildlife Gardener, to do a series of presentations at the market for summer 2018. The stage is not an option. He can use the gazebo, coordinating times with live music to avoid conflicts. There will be a fee of \$50 per presentation. Shade Tree is prepared to pay. Have asked WCM EC to share (10 x \$25).

Arbor Day Celebration - There will be a Tree Planting at WCM Elementary on Friday, April 13th at 2:00. 200 native trees will be given away from the NJ Department of Forestry (part of the Hurricane Sandy replanting).

Invasive Plant Program - Kristen Meistrell, Stewardship Project Director - South Jersey Region for NJ Audubon, has offered to do a program on how to identify and control invasive plants. It can be held either indoors or in the field.

Nature Center of Cape May Dirty Hands Garden Club - Proposing sponsorship for local residents to go to programs. There are a limited number of seats. EC will need to choose which programs to sponsor.

Discussion - New Tree Ordinance is a rewrite of the old Landscape Ordinance. Requires licenses and tree operator numbers. Tree removal must be approved (4 feet from ground, 3 inches wide). Replacements advised. Code enforcement officer will be called as needed.

Tom asked to meet with Shade Tree members about sustainable Jersey points. Bob suggested that there be more visitation between Shade Tree and EC meetings. Will ask Shade Tree members.

Janet made a motion for the WCM EC to share payment of \$500 (10 x \$25) with the Shade Tree Commission to Josh Nemeth for Farmer's Market programs, Chris seconded.

Chris made a motion to have the WCM EC partner with the Shade Tree Commission (no cost) for the Arbor Day Celebration, Trish seconded.

Bob made a motion for the WCM EC to share the payment of a \$100 donation (\$50) to NJ Audubon with the Shade Tree Commission for Kristen Meistrell's Invasive Plant Program, Joe seconded.

Bob made a motion to have WCM EC partner with the Shade Tree Commission in sponsoring participants (up to \$250 total) for the Nature Center of Cape May - May 19th, Dirty Hands Garden Club: **How to Attract Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Garden**, Chris seconded. Janet will do the PR.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Janet to accept January's minutes and seconded by Chris. Louise mentioned that, in the future, both Theresa Enteado and Suzanne Schumann should be sent Minutes and Agenda from all meetings.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of January, there is a balance of \$21,497.74. Chris was reimbursed for food and supplies from the first Family Movie Night.

Bob made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Susan seconded.

## **Planning Board**

Bob attended his first meeting and was sworn in. He will be going to class February 24th at Vocational High School for certification.

Boutique Hotel will be up again in next agenda. Discussion issued about past meetings.

## **Old Business:**

Third Avenue Open Space - It was proposed to have the property used as the location for Christine Meistrel's field program on invasive plants.

Green Team - Inga La Puma asked Trish to bring up the need for a new fan for the school's greenhouse with the EC. If WCM EC donates the fan, it could earn sustainable Jersey points. The fan costs around \$500. Tom will look into it. It should fall under municipality and school.

Environmental Resource Inventory - Hilary suggested that members take turns looking at the ERI draft before the next meeting. There is a hard copy that can be shared, in addition to the computer files.

Bicycle Path - Hilary reported that the plans are going forward nicely for Cape May Connections. West Cape May should have the opportunity to work with them in the future.

## **New Business**

Hilary thanked Tom Bocket for creating the WCM EC Annual Report for 2017. A motion was made by Susan to accept the annual report, Janet seconded.

Commissioner Francis introduced himself to WCM members and spoke about his passion and commitment to the environment.

## **Winter Programs**

January 12th Family Movie Night - The fire hall was a nice venue (25 people). The kid's enjoyed making "leaf men" with Janet.

February 2nd Family Movie Night - The school had a nice turn out (45 people). Trish's eagle program was well received.

Adult Evening Program - Trish Miller - **Golden Eagles: Ghosts of Eastern Forests**. Friday, April 13th at 7:00 PM with snacks. Janet will do the PR.

Chris made a motion to adjourn, Susan seconded. Adjournment - 8:35 PM

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 7th, 6:30 PM