

West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2017

Call to Order: 6:45 PM

Roll Call: Joe Grottola, Chris Isenhardt, Barbara Lamb, Hilary Pritchard (chair), Louise Zemaitis, Pam Kaithern (mayor)

Absent: Tom Brockett, Susan Crossan, Trish Miller, Harriet Wilson

Minutes: A motion was made by Hilary to accept the February minutes and seconded by Joe.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer absent. Tom emailed to let the EC know that nothing has changed from February's report of \$17,727.84.

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

Planning Board:

Kim and Bob Properties LLC would like to subdivide Block 55, Lot 17 on Landis Ave.

Pam Kaithern said that the increased amount of development adjacent to wetlands has been caused by changes in Zoning. The current administration (on the state level) has cut back on red tape, increasing legal development and decreased buffer zones.

Barbara expressed a need for local residents to become more proactive. Pam suggested that residents need to push for tighter Zoning regulations.

Beach Plum Farms, LLC and Beach Plum Farms II, LLC (Will Riccio), Block 73, Lots 4.01, 4.02, 5 & 7.01, are requesting variances to build on two of the lots that lack frontage.

Old Business

Farmers Market 2017 - EC members need to coordinate with Lauren for scheduling. Louise suggested that the WCM EC and Shade Tree could share their space with other local conservation organizations: NJ Audubon Nature Center of Cape May, Cape May Bird Observatory, and the Nature Conservancy have employees who work on Cape Island.

Open Space lot on 3rd Ave. Update - Louise will contact Josh Nemeth and Brittany Dobrzynski for updates.

Green Team - Tom absent.

ERI update - Chris communicated with Debbie Kratzer about the status of the ERI. She has not been forthcoming with the status of her work. EC members discussed using Princeton Hydro, LLC (Christina Pollack, Ecologist) if Debbie is unable to fulfill her contract.

Chris will reach out to Debbie and press her for an update, giving her an out.

Coordinated Bicycle Path Initiative/bicycle safety initiative - Hilary will check in with Evelyn Lovitz, Cape May EC.

WCM EC sponsored public events - Pat Sutton's "How to Spot an Owl" lecture on Friday, February 10 was very popular (45+ attendees).

The Kid's Movie Night on February 24th was very popular as well.

New Business

Teresa Enteadó is putting together a newsletter that will be mailed with the taxes.

Pam suggested Press Releases to get the word out about current events and educational snippets (i.e. invasive species, driveway clean-up). Hilary suggested that we take turns righting paragraphs like "The Wonders of West Cape May".

There was discussion about the West Cape May train tracks and what may be happening to them.

The next Kid's Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, March 24th at 6:00 PM. Louise will bring Zootopia and put together a short presentation about animals before the film, Joe will set up of the projector, and Chris will be in charge of food. Chris asked Janet Payne to do the both press release.

We need an idea for a free to the public adult evening program.

Chris made a motion to adjourn, Barbara seconded. Adjournment: 8:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting will be April 5th, 6:30 PM