

West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted online via Zoom
May 6, 2020

Call to Order: 6:37 PM

Roll Call: Hilary Pritchard (chair), Tom Bocket, Chris Isenhardt, Trish Miller, Janet Payne, Louise Zemaitis, John Francis (commissioner)

Absent: Susan Crossan, Joe Grottola (briefly included via telephone conversation), Bob Hewitt

Minutes: Janet made a motion to accept March's Minutes and Chris seconded. April's meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance is \$18,752.17. There was a \$299.96 withdrawal for grass seed for the 3rd Avenue Open Space lot. Hilary made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Chris seconded.

Planning Board:

Liaison absent. Hilary mentioned that there is a property on Park Blvd requesting an LOI.

Old Business:

Third Avenue Open Space - Joe reported by phone during meeting. It appears that the borough is on hold with their work on the lot. The grass, planted by the MUA, is growing nicely. A tree fell during a recent storm and another is sick.

Louise questioned if there were native grasses planted. Chris suggested that a committee should have input before future work is done by the WCM MUA. Hilary asked Tom to share a copy of Josh Nemeth's landscape plan with EC members before the next meeting.

Hilary suggested that beds could be maintained in memory of loved ones. Louise talked about how Cape May Point has volunteer "bed fellows" maintaining the beds at Pavilion Circle.

Wilbraham Park water station - Janet will research "hands-free" water stations. The current one that is being considered has a push button.

Invasive Plants Brochure - Janet sent the layout to everyone before the meeting. Louise's husband, Michael O'Brien, made a few editing suggestions and will donate some photographs.

The brochure needs to be printed. Janet will check with NJ Audubon for grant money and get quotes from local printers.

Family Movie Nights and Programs for 2020 - March's Family Movie Night was canceled due to social distancing restrictions. Kathy Horn's Lyme Disease Program, which was scheduled for April, was canceled as well.

greenchip Electronic Waste Solutions - Recycling will go ahead as scheduled, with proper social distancing, on May 30. Hilary asked Chris if she could talk to the IT people at the Lower Township Schools and ask if they have recyclables. Janet will send out a press release and share it with EC members. The sign needs to be updated.

Cape May Connections - Hilary reported that the City of Cape May is considering more "slow streets" (currently Jackson and Decatur). There will be more opportunities in the future.

Farmer's Market - Farmer's Markets are considered to be essential businesses. The WCM Farmer's Market will start on June 23rd, as scheduled. The Invasive Plant brochures should be ready by then. Chris will be in charge of the WCM EC presence at the Farmer's Market. Hilary and Louise will help.

Paper Straws - Chris received the paper straw shipment (8 cases). Jill Simmons will distribute them to local businesses, with a letter from the Environmental Commission. Chris will contact Jill. Janet will do a press release.

Plastic Bag Ordinance - Hilary is concerned that the pandemic will create more plastic waste. Louise mentioned that ANJEC has been working to educate the public about appropriate usage.

Community Yard Sale - May's community yard sale will be postponed until October, on the Saturday before the bulk pick-up.

Bulk Pick-up - Spring's Bulk Pick-up is still schedule for May 20th.

Eco awards - Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

Bird Safe Glass - Trish talked about the environmentally responsible building that her husband's business was moving to at the Cape May County Airport. Bird Safe Glass was included in the plans.

Hilary and Louise agreed that West Cape May could create an ordinance requiring that Bird Safe Glass be included in all new constructions.

Adjournment - 7:45 PM. Hilary made a motion to adjourn and Chris seconded.

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:30 PM