

## West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2021

Call to order: 6:35 pm

**Roll call:** Hilary Pritchard (chair), Tom Bocket, Alan Crawford, Joe Grottola, Trish Miller, Allison Morgan, Janet Payne, Commissioner John Francis

Absent: Chris Isenhardt, Louise Zemaitis,

**Minutes:** Janet motioned to accept the minutes. Joe seconded.

**Treasures report:** The current balance is \$17,445.47. This is a change of \$246.40 from last month from the purchase of E-waste sign patches - \$40 and yard sale signs- \$206.

Last month spent \$86 for yard sale ads.

Expecting \$377.82 from Greenchip for e-waste

Tom requests all invoices go through him first instead of going to Lauren first.

Alan motioned to accept the minutes and Allison seconded.

**Planning board:** – Allison reported that there were no new applications. The planning board adopted storm water ordinance per state requirements.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Ave LOI:**

Trish sent letter to DEP re: Wetlands buffer waiver for 209 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The lot currently has a single-family home. The developer could place a duplex on the current footprint without needing a waiver. Hilary and Trish agreed that allowing 3 homes plus a buffer planted with native trees and shrubs was the lesser of two evils. As such, Trish wrote a letter to DEP suggesting that if the DEP grants a waiver they add a requirement for the buffer to be maintained to keep it from becoming overgrown by invasive vines. Trish suggested making an escrow account so the developer could provide funds to support maintenance.

Pam Kaithern suggested contacting the county to determine if the property was suitable for open space funding. Trish provided the block and lot information to Tom Halligan, who works for the county. He passed it along to Leslie Gimeno, Planning Director. She indicated that it would be a stretch for the property to meet their eligibility requirements as it has already been developed.

### **Old business**

**Green Team:** Nothing to report.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Open Space:**

Pollinator Park is official. County signed agreement for 25-year term starting 2006 and ending 2031. The Borough is responsible for maintaining the property. Passive use is allowed. The EC can now move forward with installing benches, etc.

**Cape May Connections:**

Hilary reported that the bicycle committee is meeting again. They are out of maps and requested a donation from the EC to help with printing more maps. Hilary motioned for a donation up to \$2k. Second by Alan. Motion passed.

**Farmer's Market:**

Hilary will reach out to Chris regarding sign up for working the market.

Items to distribute:

- Geobins
- Spotted lantern fly brochures and egg scrapers
- Invasive plant brochures

Hilary suggested replanting gardens. Will talk to Chris about this.

**Press releases:**

Janet will put together a round-up/glyphosate handout or press release

Allison suggested that the EC needs to make sure all press releases go on the Borough Facebook page; need to make sure we share things via social media

**E-waste:**

Tom, Chris, Trish helped out directing cars to e-waste and paper shredding, They also handed out invasive plant brochures. There was a steady stream of people. 8,388 pounds of e-waste was collected.

Paper shredding going on at the same time. Some people came back with paper if they dropped e-waste and vice versa.

Janet will try to reserve Sat. after the May bulk pick up next year.

Hilary suggested putting out a press release to announce results and remind people to save their e-waste for next year. Trish suggested reminding people to save their Christmas lights around the holidays.

**Borough wide yard sale:**

Borough wide yard sale went well. About 30 people participated. Theresa and Barbara suggested that we do two yard sales each year, one in spring and one in fall. All agreed that we should do another one in the fall this year after bulk pick up.

**Battery recycling:** Alan is still working on this.

**Sustainable Jersey grants:** – nothing done on this yet for the lot on Sunset. Hilary suggested proposing to the Borough to apply for an open space grant to improve it. Might be good to wait until Sunset Blvd. plan gets underway.

**Glysohate ban:** – does the borough have one?

**Water conservation initiative:**

Commissioner Frances brought info from Cape May City that educates the public about watering restrictions. He reported that WCM has a water conservation ordinance but it is buried on the website and difficult to find.

Tom suggests putting important links on the EC web page to make it more accessible

**New business:**

Commissioner Francis is going to let us know when there will be a presentation on grant opportunities for the borough. Pro-NJ grant from Ocean Wind – Orsted. Grants available for the 3 counties affected by the wind energy development.

From the grant website: *The Pro-NJ Grantor Trust offers small, women-owned and minority-owned businesses in New Jersey support in reconfiguring their businesses to participate in the developing offshore wind industry. The Trust will also provide funding for infrastructure resiliency improvements critical to the coastal communities in Atlantic, Ocean and Cape May counties.*

Tom proposed meeting around a table next time!

**Adjournment:**

7:40 pm: Janet motioned to adjourn. Hilary seconded.

No meeting in July. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.