

West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes November 3, 2021

Call to Order: 6:38 PM

Roll Call: Hilary Pritchard (chair), Tom Bocket, Alan Crawford, Joe Grotto-la, Allison Morgan, Louise Zemaitis, Commissioner John Francis

Absent: Chris Isenhart, Trish Miller, and Janet Payne

Minutes: Tom made a motion to accept September's Minutes and Alan seconded. There was no meeting in October.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance is \$18,672.49. This number reflects an increase of \$41 from Geo Bin sales at the WCM Farmer's Market. Louise made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Allison seconded.

Planning Board:

There was discussion about proposed variances and subdivisions and their effects on nearby wetlands. Louise was concerned that invasive plants are taking hold in disturbed areas and impeding the wetlands ability to provide protection from storm water. Hilary spoke about the effects on the neighbor's quality of life.

Allison suggested that the WCM EC offer guidance, in the form of information, to local homeowners about wildlife friendly landscaping and the problems with invasive vegetation.

Old Business:

Pollinator Park – Joe reported that the Coral Honeysuckle on the back fence is growing well, but invasive plant removal is necessary in the back alley. He requested that there be some workdays in the next 4-6 months.

Green Team – Tom will look at potential points for Sustainable Jersey 2022.

Cape May Connections – Hilary contacted Cape May City regarding potential bicycle repair stations in West Cape May. Possible locations were discussed.

Farmer's Market – Chris absent. Tom talked about the 2021 season. There was good turn out. The Spotted Lanternfly information was useful. The Cape Island bike maps were the most popular item.

Press Releases – Janet absent.

Programs – Still waiting for best time to restart due to COVID concerns. Joe offered his assistance with set-up when needed.

Ocean Arts Festival – The date has been chosen: October 22, 2022. Janet Payne and Annette Patton will coordinate with the borough.

Plastic Bag Ordinance – The ordinance has been finalized and will go into affect May 2022 for stores greater than 2500 square feet.

New Business:

A Scientific Approach to Global Warming and Climate Change – This free event by Rutgers University will take place at Cape May Convention Hall, November 6, 10:00-1:00.

Shade Tree Commission – Wayne Hoffman from the WCM Shade Tree Commission reached out to Hilary about collaborating with the WCM EC. He is particularly interested in the landscaping in front of Borough Hall and Backyard Park.

Louise mentioned that a member of Cape May Point 's EC approached her, asking her thoughts on the creation of a Cape May Point Shade Tree Commission. Hilary will give Wayne's contact info to Louise to pass on.

WCM Watershed Master Plan – The draft has been published. Hilary will send a link to WCM EC members.

It was agreed that 2022 WCM EC meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. Hilary will submit dates to Erin Seer.

Commissioner John Francis thanked WCM EC members for their work and involvement in climate matters.

Adjournment – 7:50 PM. Hilary made a motion to adjourn and Alan seconded.

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1st at 6:30 PM