

## **West Cape May Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes February 5, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 6:30 PM

**Roll Call:** Hilary Pritchard (chair), Tom Bocket, Susan Crossan, Joe Grotola, Chris Isenhardt, Louise Zemaitis, John Francis (comissioner)

**Absent:** Trish Miller, Janet Payne

**Guests:** Kristen Meistrell, Steven Garcia, Jill Simmons, and Christine Hughes

**Minutes:** Hilary made a motion to accept November's Minutes and Bob seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** The current balance is \$24,693.96. No change from last month. Chris made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Bob seconded.

### **Planning Board:**

Block 74, Lot 1 Beach Plum Farm expansion. The owner is requesting to move the delineation of wetlands. Was received January 17th.

Block 55, Lot 17.1 Landis Avenue requested a change of use. It was denied.

Block 55, 23.04 and 24 Sixth Avenue. Initial request was for a driveway with need to cut down a number of trees. An easement for flagpole driveway and new lot was approved.

Block 10, Lot 1 Park Blvd is requesting a LOI.

### **Old Business:**

Invasive Plants Brochure - Guests Kristen Meistrell and Steven Garcia from the New Jersey Audubon Stewardship Department offered advice about educating local residents about invasive plants.

Kristen explained how the Cape May peninsula is of global importance for bird migration. Invasive plants do not provide proper nutrition for migrating birds and pollinators need native host plants.

NJ Audubon's work requires private and government grants. The Natural Areas Counsel has asked the Stewardship Department to use local eco-types for vegetation. They are now Partnering with mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank to properly revegetate the area.

Stephen is coordinating NJA volunteer efforts. He will help WCM EC create an educational brochure about removal and replacement of invasive plants. Janet Payne is willing to do the layout and design.

Kristen explained that borough properties can be added to NJA work sites. Partners for US Fish & Wildlife has equipment and supplies that can be used on private land, which includes municipalities.

Third Avenue Open Space - Joe will take apart the raised bed and look at what needs to be done for repair.

greenchip Electronic Waste Solutions - This spring's date will be May 30.

Bike Path - The map has been delivered and is ready to distribute.

Farmer's Market - Chris requested additional help. This year's dates are June 23<sup>rd</sup> through August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Paper Straws - Lauren, West Cape May's finance officer, is looking into where paper straws can be purchased. Jill looked into getting paper straws (in Vineland) to give out at the Farmer's Market and local restaurants. She asked to meet with Lauren.

Wilbraham Park water station - Hilary and Mayor Sabo went to last month's Shade Tree Commission meeting to ask for partnership in this project. Mayor Sabo answered questions with members' concerns.

Family Movie Nights and Programs for 2020 - Chris made a motion for payment, up to \$275, for the February 7 evening program "Project Snow-storm", Louise seconded. The program is scheduled 7-8 PM.

January 24: "Big Miracle" was well attended. Adehl Schwaderer from NJA Audubon talked about sea life before the program with "Tina" the turtle.

March 13: "Hoot" - Louise will do a brief talk about owls before the movie.

## **New Business**

Chris suggested that the WCM EC sell seeds. Maybe sponsor an evening program on how to start a backyard garden.

Louise suggested that there should be a future program about local tick born illnesses. She will contact Kathy Roye-Horn, RN, CIC. Kathy is an infection prevention educator who has a program about this topic.

Chris made a motion to adjourn and Bob seconded. Adjournment - 8:28 PM

Minutes prepared by Louise Zemaitis

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 PM