

ANNUAL REPORT

CAPE MAY POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2013

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Edie Schuhl, Chairman: Lynn Smith, Vice Chairman Sandy Allison, Ann Brecker, Marguerite Chandler, LuAnn Daniels, Mildred Morgan, Emelia Oleson, Glen Davis. Commissioner Robert Moffatt

During the year under review the Commission held 12 regular meetings. These meetings were advertised in the Cape May Star & Wave and posted on the Borough website in accordance with the "Sunshine Law".

ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

1. Watershed ambassador Zach Nickerson recommended the EC include the Lily Lake Assessment in the update of the Natural Resources Inventory. Zach lead volunteers in removing the invasive Parrot Feather from the lake. The event was held June 9, 2013.
2. Based on a information provided by Dr Stuart Farrell, Stockton College Director of Coastal Research, the EC recommended the Borough not employ routine beach raking. Repeated raking kills off the new plants, eliminates ghost crabs, and other critters that live and feed in the rack. Leaving the rack line in tact will also promote the growth of the threatened Coastal Evening Primrose. The summer beach staff will police the area to remove human litter.
3. The EC recommended to the Commissioners to explore the concept of a Cape May to Cape May Point bike trail with three contiguous municipalities and to request the County update it's bike trail survey.
4. Recommendation to commissioners for a three year plan for improvements to the parameter of Lily Lake including removal of large rocks, and cleaning up and consolidating beds.
5. Recommendation to commissioners designating all Cape May Point beaches and entrances to be non-smoking. Cigarette litter in the #1 littered item in America. Non-smoking ordinance was passed by the Commissioners September 12, 2013.
6. Commissioner Robert Mullock requested the EC support the idea of propagation of butterfly host plants on Borough property. Unanimously supported by the EC.
7. The EC will begin the process of updating the ERI and seeking funds to accomplish this.
8. A recommendation was made to the Commissioners to pursue preserving open space in the Borough. Steps have been taken to have the County purchase the Gary Gilbert property at W. Lake Dr. and Cape Ave. It would be leased to the Borough and maintained as a rain and butterfly garden.

9. The EC and volunteers, including Edie Schuhl and Mildred Morgan continue to maintain Triangle Park. Invasive vines, plants, and shrubs were removed. Many birdwatchers were seen enjoying the park this year.
10. Emelia Oleson continues heading up volunteers for the bi-annual beach clean up in April and September.

Respectively submitted,

Lynn L. Smith, Vice Chairman Environmental Commission