

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Camille Guigliano, David Lieber, Beth Jacobwitz, David Lipsky, Lisa Lowe, Judy Steinman, Emily Wicks.

Absent: Joe DiFrancisco

- 1. Tree Program.** DLL reports we can get willow trees from the DEC; we will order 25 this year and see how it goes. Planning to distribute the trees on May 19. Discussion of tie in between willow distribution and a plant swap.

Action: DLL will order trees, and contact JD on how to proceed with payment.
BJ will pick up trees in Westchester.

- 2. Newsletter.**

Action: EW will circulate a draft.

- 3. Beach Management.** DJL working on a shorter version to address issues specific to us.

Action: DJL will attempt to circulate a draft before the next meeting.
CG will reach out to Saltaire regarding their plan.

- 4. EAD Banner.** No action yet, waiting for DLL to measure existing banners.

- 5. Budget.** CG submitted the budget on January 31, with no changes from last year. JD reported to CG that the Village is withholding funding for dune grass this year because of the beach replenishment project, which includes dune grass planting.

- 6. Natural Resource Inventory.** CG stated that one of our mandates in the Village Code (10-5-C) is that we conduct an inventory of the natural resources within the Village. She stated that we have discussed it in the past, but never proceeded for several reasons. She was proposing that VOBEC was now ready to move forward with this project. A lengthy discussion ensued. JS reported that inventory is meant to look at open spaces for land use purposes. LL believes it would be important to inventory trees on private property. DJL thinks we can do a "windshield inventory" from the street. EW suggests each member could inventory what they can see from the street on two walks. Some questioned the value of this project given the time-consuming nature and that so much of OB is on private property. No decision could be reached. CG stated, and LL agreed, that we should either conduct a tree inventory, or have it deleted from our mandate as stated in the code. Topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Action. All to consider.

- 7. Recycling Bins.** EW has identified four potential options, which were presented and reviewed.

Action: EW will reach out to OB Chamber of Commerce and report back.

- 8. Annual Report.** Submitted to the Village on 31 January.

- 9. EAD Topic.** One suggestion was a birder who could discuss bird migration, since Fire Island is part of the Atlantic migration flyway. Another was having a speaker from Surf Rider come and discuss the status of our beaches, or another relevant topic. All to consider the two options.

Action: EW to circulate Surf Rider Report.

- 10. Recycling Coordinator.** Tabled until JD present.

- 11. Documentary Possibility.** EW reported that someone contacted her regarding potential interest in the impact of climate change on Fire Island for a possible documentary. She has no further information at this point.

- 12. Meeting.** The next meeting shall be February 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Guigliano