

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Via Zoom

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

1. **Beach Management.** DJL discussed the need for a formalized Beach Management Plan to include garbage collection, beach driving, beach grass planting, snow fence installation, beach clean-ups, etc. CG suggested that it be done over the course of the next year.

Action: DJL will do research to look for plans from other communities.

2. **Tree Legislation.** BJ discussed the sample tree legislation circulated and four big picture issues the group needs to agree upon. Vote taken on the issue of whether VOBEC should be involved in approval of plans for tree removal. Two in favor, three opposed and two abstained. All agree the proposed legislation should not include regulation of tree removal providers, or a provision regarding removal of trees creating dangerous conditions. Additionally, it was agreed that all tree removal must be regulated and not just removal for new construction.

Action: BJ to reach out to attorneys regarding preparation of a draft.

3. **Oyster Shell Recovery.** CG and DLL met with Maureen Dunn. JD agreed to storage of a large bin for centralized collection on Village property. Various options of shell collection in OB were discussed, as well as the possibility of engaging other restaurants in other communities. Matthew's and Maguires are both interested in joining the effort. No word from the Albatross.

Actions: CG will reach out to Mario from Saltaire to inquire about other restaurants in communities on the west end.

DLL will follow-up with Albatross and other restaurants in OB.

CG and DLL will attend the H4H Pre-Season Meeting scheduled for 06 April, from 3-4 p.m.

4. **Electronics Recycling.** JS reports she is working on it.
5. **Giveaway Items.** BJ and EW working on the labelling issue for the seed packets. CG will be ordering bags shortly and will work on small battery collection containers.

Action: CG to order bags and look for battery recycling collection containers.
BJ and EW will continue to prepare artwork for seed packets.

6. **Website.** BJ will review website. Suggestions to add under Areas of Focus or Accomplishments: Oyster Recovery, Buckets on the Beach, Dune Day, and Water Bottle Refilling Stations.

Action: CG to start writing information on oyster shell recovery and H4H.

7. **Grants.** DJL and JS looking for grant opportunities for the Village to pursue.

8. **Spring Newsletter.** All agree the topic of the Spring Newsletter will be a discussion of the various migratory paths that cross Fire Island.

Action: DJL will draft article on the migratory path of sea life.

LL will draft article on the lights out initiative.

CG has drafted an article summarizing NYT article.

BJ will draft article on the migratory path of piping plover.

CG has drafted an article on the migratory path of monarch butterflies.

ALL to review the two articles drafted by CG and submit feedback.

9. **EAD.** Possible topics discussed include: individual who deals with bird issues for NYC; Carl Safina; wind power projects. All agree the wind power projects should be the topic.

Action: DJL will identify and reach out to a potential speaker.

10. **OBYG:** EW discussed the status of collaboration of VOBEC and OBYG on compositing. Lauren Chenault joined the meeting as president of the PTA for the Woodhull School. She attended to encourage the participation of the school on this project. EW discussed the possibility that the lot the camp uses for its garden may be sold.

Action: EW will provide additional updates.

11. **Meeting.** The next meeting shall be April 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Guigliano

