

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

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

Guests: Joseph DiFrancisco, Eliza Mitnick

- 1. Membership.** David Lieber announced he is resigning from VOBEC effective March 31, 2024. All expressed gratitude for his 14 years of service.
- 2. Fire Island Documentary.** VOBEC met Eliza Mitnick who is a documentarian working on a project to explore environmental issues facing Fire Island.
- 3. Tree Program.** DLL reported 25 willow trees have been ordered and will be delivered on May 10, 2024. We will need to plan on caring for them until the giveaway, which is confirmed for May 19th. We will focus on the details of the event at our next meeting.

Action: DLL will confirm delivery.

- 4. Recycling Bins.** EW has sent pricing and images of the five options we discussed to CoC.

Action: If she has not yet heard from them, EW will follow up in a week.

- 5. Newsletter.** Updated version will be circulated, with comments limited to format. Members were reminded that all comments regarding substance need to be provided sooner, when draft articles are distributed.

Action: EW will circulate a draft and add link to water report of the Village.
DJL will provide information on water usage.

- 6. Beach Management.** CG reached out to the administrator of Saltaire, who forwarded to us what their community uses, which DJL found helpful. DJL will circulate a draft in the next few days. JD reports that Army Corp has installed snow fencing and planted beach grass. Because of this update, it was determined that we would most likely cancel or reduce the scope of the dune planting event this year.

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

- 8. EAD Topic.** Migratory birds or climate change topic. It was decided we would pursue getting a speaker from Surf Rider.

Action: EW will reach out to Surf Rider.

9. OBYG. We agreed that we would like to pursue another collaboration this summer.

Action: EW will reach out to our Youth Group liaison to discuss possibilities.

10. Natural Resource Inventory. Discussion continued concerning usefulness of conducting inventory. DJL felt it was important and proposed utilizing Stony Brook as a resource.

Action. DJL to reach out to Stony Brook University to see if there are interns or graduate students that may want to work on the project.

11. Recycling Coordinator. CG will work with JD on the grant application. LL reports that these applications are due in September.

12. Community Fund Dates: OBCF reached out to CG to obtain event dates for their calendar. It was confirmed that May 19, 2024 is the plant swap and tree give away. Beach cleanup is confirmed for September 21, 2024. EAD date will be forwarded as soon as a date is confirmed.

13. Climate Smart Community. BJ raised the possibility of Ocean Beach being certified as a Climate Smart Community. JD noted that Garden City was certified and stated that it makes a number of grants available to the community.

Action: BJ will look into the criteria and report back.

14. LWRP. CG will reach out to DH to check on status.

15. OBA/OBCF New Homeowner Brunch. Event is being held on 08 June. CG inquired whether organizers would like VOBEC representation, as in past years.

Action: BJ will ask organizers to determine that.

16. Giveaway. BJ asked if we wanted to purchase some giveaways for this year. It was decided we would pursue small containers that can be used as battery holders, to sequester them until they can be properly disposed of.

Action: CG will reach out to the vendor who has supplied us with our bags.

17. Meeting. The next meeting shall be April 3, 2024 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Guigliano