Avalon Environmental Commission

January 16, 2018 Meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:oo pm by Chairman Reynolds. Flag salute. Roll call.

**Present**: Kevin Coyle, Debanne Macaluso, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman, Beth Tipping

**Absent**: Joe Dvorak

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2017 meeting was made by Brian Reynolds and seconded by Steve Malyszka. Approved by all.

A review of the Vegetation Management Plan Report was made by Aaron Baker from The LOMAX Consulting Group. The report included the tree management assessment and recommendations along the public streets, public parks and open spaces, including beach access paths, a tree management summary, and a tree inventory assessment with recommendations. The borough has addressed issues and opportunities to control noxious plants and to improve natural areas. Programs have included dune vegetation management plan, Armacost Park restoration studies, developing and updating acceptable vegetation for landscaping, evaluation of natural ecosystems and barrier island conditions, Borough Ordinance revisions or additions to enhance Avalon’s natural environs, address pest and pathogen issues, Southern pine beetle control and tree planting grants, a Tree Management Committee to provide guidance to the Borough, and a tree selection and care outreach developed and provided to the public.

Through the Community Forestry Program, the Borough was issued a grant. The grant provides the funds to enhance the tree resources on its public areas, mostly in the parks and streetscapes. The enhancement includes a final assessment/inventory of trees, existing and failing that require replacement. Planting trees where they do not currently occur or replanting trees lost to coastal storms. Tree selection, planting standards and procedures, monitoring and maintenance protocols. The tree enhancement project is an opportunity to train the Avalon Department of Public Works and the public in tree selection, planting and management. Approximately half the trees that will be planted are to replace lost or failing trees due to environmental factors such as coastal storms and salt stressing. The trees will be planted along Dune Drive from 19th Street to 71st Street, public parks between 8th and 12th Streets, Bay Park Marina and Kayak Park between 53rd and 57th Streets and on 30th Street at the Avalon entrance.

A review and finalization of the Pruning Protocol was made. Debanne expressed concern of who is to enforce or manage the pruning of private properties. Steve stated it should be managed by the Tree Management Committee. Arron Baker agreed the protocol should be included in the DVMP Program. Homeowners should be aware of the process and how to partake in the process. There should be an approved list of landscapers and requirements for the landscapers for the Pruning Protocol. A motion to approve the protocol, provided the changes be added, was made by Steve Malyszka. Seconded by Debanne Macaluso. Approved by all.

Review of the proposed Dune Vegetation maintenance pruning projects at 37th – 39th Streets and 39th Street South. Aaron Baker stated the project at 37th – 39th Streets will start the protocol with what can be done and to what limit the pruning can go. 39th Street south is doing very well and not looking into a maintenance program.

Adjournment at 5:10 pm