AVALON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Reynolds. Flag salute. Roll Call.

**Present**: Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman, Beth Tipping

**Absent:** Debanne Macaluso

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting was made by Steve Malyszka, seconded by Donna Rothman.

Review of the DVMP at 63rd Street by Brian Reynolds. At the August Environmental Commission meeting the DVMP plan from Hess Landscape Architects and LOMAX Consulting Group was approved and the MOA is being prepared. Dr. David Glaser, at 155 64th Street, had some comments and questions about the project. Brian Reynolds stated the Environmental Commission under NJ law is an advisory body. Among its projects, it has been responsible for the DVMP to approve the replacement of Japanese Black Pines in the dunes that have been affected by diseases and insects. The EC and the Borough of Avalon coordinates with an outside consulting group, currently LOMAX Consulting Group. Approval for the work has been obtained from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. All work must be done by hand since no heavy machinery is allowed in the dunes under the NJDEP Coastal Jurisdiction. The Environmental Commission relies on professionals to be sure work is being properly carried out. The commission does not have police authority and states if somebody sees something that may be illegal, to report it to the authorities immediately. If the police do not know about it immediately, they may not be able to find out what has gone on.

The Environmental Commission has received a letter from Dr. Glaser. The letter indicates that the owners of the DVMP, 162 & 164 63rd Street, includes a not-yet built accessory structure that is much closer to the dunes than any other property in Avalon. Dr. Glaser is requesting to re-assess the property after all construction has been completed and to approve any changes to the plans. Brian Reynolds spoke with the Zoning Official, Jeff Hesley, indicating that there are very few restrictions on accessory buildings such as, no cooking appliances and no toilets. The plans do not show what the building will be used for.

Dr. Glaser has indicated the minimal about of invasive species in the area. The commission relies on Lomax Consulting Group to keep on an eye on the project especially when there is a DVMP in place. There are a number of requirements when there is a project going on. One of the most important is maintaining irrigation for two years or until the plants have rooted. Another is that there must be a minimum of an 85% success rate in the plantings since planting in the dunes is difficult. Dr. Glaser stated the property has the lowest density of Japanese Black Pines and feel they are not invading the property. Concerns of disrupting the dunes with introducing new planting in the area with non-invasive species.

Aaron Baker from LOMAX Consulting Group, stated during the site investigation, LOMAX found other Japanese Black Pines in the dunes. He feels the dune structure would benefit with additional planting and restoration. The list of species acts as a pallet as more plants that are good for the dunes are added. The strategy is to create a diversity of species that will do well in the dunes. Brian Reynolds feels the DVMP project at 63rd Street should continue.

Motion to move forward with the plans without any delay was made by Steve Malyszka. Seconded by Joe Dvorak. Approved by all.

Brief update of the Tree Grant by Joe Lomax from LOMAX Consulting Group. The project is taking a little longer than anticipated. An extension request has been submitted to the DEP as well as a request to reduce the amount of trees from 100 to 81 trees. The request looks favorable along with Public Works proceeding with some of the planting this fall.

Review of possible revisions to the Borough Landscaping ordinance. The Planning and Zoning Board is working on revisions that will include the acceptable plant lists along with any modifications. The Environmental Commission is to review the draft and comment on any changes that may be necessary. Information on possible changes to the ordinance should be given to Brian Reynolds as soon as possible.

Adjournment at 5:45 pm.