AVALON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MAY 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Reynolds.

Flag salute. Roll call.

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

Absent: Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 meeting was made by Donna Rothman and seconded by Beth Tipping.

The Environmental Commission held a joint meeting with the Borough of Avalon Tree Committee which included Paul Short, Bill Macomber, Steve Camp and Jen Deeney. Joe Lomax from The LOMAX Consulting group was also present for the meeting.

Review and discussion of the Vegetation Management Plan Report by The LOMAX Consulting Group. The report includes a series of surveys and analysis with a variety of opportunities to consider some decision making in the future. It is a base line that establishes what the tree conditions are within the borough and public open spaces. Joe Lomax discussed the conditions of Armacost Park. The northern part of the park is doing well, the central part of the park looks as though it is doing well with limited work of clearing invasive vines and the southern part of the park is not doing well with the overgrown plants and will require more work and oversite. It is recommended to go back into the southern part to maintain and cut back the plants to reduce the overgrowth.

Joe Lomax reviewed the Vegetation Management Plan Report starting with how far the Borough has come and what has been accomplished such as the Dune Vegetation Management Plan, Armacost Park Restoration, Development and updating the list of acceptable vegetation in the Borough, Tree Assessment and Maintenance Program and Tree Inventory throughout the Borough. The Dune Vegetation Management Plan includes priority mapping of the dunes that illustrate areas of concentration of the invasive Japanese Black Pines. It also includes the Borough owned dune areas that have been completed or are pending DVMP projects. The LOMAX Consulting Group completed the Tree Maintenance Assessment that has been broken down into two parts including recommendations of trees to prune within the public streets and diseased or dying trees to be removed within the public parks and open spaces including beach path access paths. Joe Lomax also suggested updating the Dune Vegetation Pruning Protocols that addresses the significant, unauthorized cutting of dune vegetation on Borough property by adjacent/nearby property owners or their landscapers.

Status of the Tree Grant Planting through the Borough. The spring planting has begun and are hoping to finish up with the planting soon. The Borough did receive the extension for the Tree Grant Planting and are hoping to get another grant but cannot apply until the current project is finished.

Status of the Butterfly Garden Planting. Bill Macomber has obtained a bid for the project and work will start soon.

Adjournment at 5:50pm.