

Avalon Environmental Commission
March 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairwoman Rothman.

Pledge of allegiance.

Chairwoman Rothman read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

Roll call: **Present:** Dave Coskey, Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak, Donna Rothman
 Absent: Claire Driscoll, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Beth Tipping

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2022 and February 15, 2022 meetings was made by Dave Coskey and seconded by Joe Dvorak. Approved by all.

Review of 2022 DVMP Maintenance Pruning Projects: Aaron Baker introduced the first pruning project to be considered, located on 65th Street. This project was originally done in 2014, and there have been maintenance pruning done at this site biannually since. This pruning project will not cut anything beyond previous pruning projects done. A Memorandum of Agreement has already been established for this project. An extension letter will be needed for 2022 and 2023 to continue to prune this project in accordance with the standard plan. Donna Rothman inquired if any new plants will be included in the pruning project, with Aaron Baker indicating that is unknown but possible. Typically salt-ridden plants are pruned to promote lateral growth and will result in healthier plants.

A motion to approve the pruning project for 65th Street was made by Joe Dvorak and seconded by Kevin Coyle. Approved by all.

Aaron Baker presented the next proposed project, located adjacent to 4099 Bayberry Drive. A new home was constructed at this site, at which time the developer sponsored a small DVMP project. A replanting was done and all Japanese Black Pines located within that project scope were removed. When the new homeowner moved in, they sponsored a new DVMP project and requested an expansion of the project area. This plan will complete corrective pruning and will address damaging vines in the area. A Memorandum of Agreement will be drafted and an escrow account will be created for this maintenance pruning project.

A motion to approve the project located near 4099 Bayberry Drive was made by Joe Dvorak and seconded by Kevin Coyle. Approved by all.

A discussion took place regarding increasing awareness of the DVMP program. Aaron Baker reported approximately 20 blocks have been addressed through the DVMP program with between 30 and 40 sponsors. The dense concentration of Japanese Black Pines has been mostly addressed. DVMP programs in neighboring municipalities were discussed, noting many programs are very similar with minor differences.

Avalon Environmental Website: Donna Rothman announced the new website is now live. Dave Coskey noted because of the template of the Borough's website, much of the beautiful content was restricted, indicating a different template would make the website more appealing to the eye.

ANJEC Resolution: Donna Rothman reported ANJEC has requested New Jersey Municipalities adopt a Resolution “to Support the Ability of Municipalities to Adopt Regulations to Protect Public Safety, and Welfare from Threats of Flooding.” A requesting memorandum was forwarded to Borough Council, and such Resolution was adopted at a Regular Meeting held March 9, 2022. ANJEC has been notified of its adoption.

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI): Donna Rothman explained the compiling of an Environmental Resource Inventory is included in the Master Plan. She announced she recently attended a webinar regarding such inventories and shared the Power Point Presentation given during that webinar. She detailed the definition of an ERI, why it is important and useful, while noting the document would become an appendix to the Master Plan when complete. The compiling of an ERI was included in the work plan for 2022; however, such a task takes approximately one and a half years to complete. An ERI is initiated by the Environmental Commission, who also develops the Request for Proposals (RFP) and solicits said proposals. Volunteers would be needed to oversee the process and coordinate offices and public bodies throughout the process. There is a small budget available to initiate this process, and grant funding is also available. The Township of Hopewell has a very comprehensive ERI on their website. She encouraged all members to review the document, which could be used as a possible template for Avalon’s ERI.

Alternate Members for Environmental Commission: Donna Rothman reported a recent conversation with Mayor Pagliughi regarding a redrafting of the Borough of Avalon’s Ordinance concerning the Environmental Commission to allow for alternate members. The Mayor was receptive to the change, and agreed that the addition of two alternates is reasonable. The alternate members would be non-voting unless a quorum is required.

Pollinator Garden: Donna Rothman indicated Pat Sutton will be returning for a lecture series at the Pollinator Garden this year, which will consist of four sessions, the first of which to take place at the 39th Street building. The 3 other sessions will be in the Pollinator Garden

Surfside Science: Donna Rothman announced the Surfside Science lecture series will be repeated this year, with four sessions to be held. The Avalon Free Public Library has agreed to co-sponsor the events. Additionally, another lecture **Fish, Fins and More** co-sponsored by the Avalon Free Public Library and the AEC will be held at the Avalon Public Library on June 29, 2022. The lecture will discuss the physiologic reasons why fish swim differently.

Armacost Park: Donna Rothman reported a plan has been presented to the Mayor regarding restoring the park, who expressed some interest in the project. Kevin Coyle noted he observed Public Works employees cutting a tree on the Dune Drive side of the park. Dave Coskey stated the 50th anniversary of the park will be this year, and suggested the milestone be commemorated in some way. Kevin Coyle inquired if the Mayor has agreed to install the pipe at Armacost Park, with Donna Rothman responding yes.

Upcoming Events: Donna Rothman announced many upcoming events in the month of April, including Community Connections on April 9th, Dune Grass Planting April 23rd with a rain date of April 24th, Arbor Day April 29th, Grasses in Classes Dune Grass Planting April 14th and the Tree Seedling Program on April 29th. She encouraged all to volunteer.

Adjournment at 4:51 pm.