

**Avalon Environmental Commission
October 18, 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:** Kevin Coyle, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman,
Chris Amacher and Jamie McDermott

Absent: Dave Coskey, Claire Driscoll and Beth Tipping

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting was made by Brian Reynolds and seconded by Kevin Coyle. Approved by all.

Speakers booked for 2023: Donna Rothman announced many new speakers have been booked for various educational sessions in 2023. Joe Martucci will be speaking about climate change on July 18, 2023. In August, Doug Tallamy will be speaking about native plants. Pat Sutton has also agreed to return to Avalon to host a lecture series; however, it is possible that a change of structure concerning the lectures will be undertaken. The library has agreed to continue the co-sponsorship of the lectures offered.

Schedule of 2023 Meetings: Donna Rothman distributed the proposed schedule of 2023 Environmental Commission meetings, to be published December 1, 2022 in The Press of Atlantic City, and encouraged the attendance of all members. Brian Reynolds suggested ensuring the November meeting will not be held during the week of Thanksgiving. Donna thanked Brian for that suggestion.

Littoral Society Speaker at AEC Meeting 11/15/22: Donna Rothman reported a presentation will be made on living shorelines at the November 15, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting. She noted invitations to the presentation have been extended to many Borough officials outside of the Environmental Commission membership and encouraged attendance.

Dune Grass Planting: Donna Rothman reminded all present of the upcoming Dune Grass Planting on October 22, 2022 and indicated volunteers are always welcome.

DVMP – Change to Tony Mea Plan: Donna Rothman explained this DVMP was discussed and approved at a previous Environmental Commission. This DVMP was a project sponsored by multiple homeowners, with Tony Mea being the primary sponsor. Since its approval, the project scope has been expanded to include a larger area; however, the project itself remains very similar. Aaron Baker from Lomax Consulting Group has reviewed the project and recommends approval. A motion to approve the updated DVMP was made by Kevin Coyle and seconded by Chris Amacher. Approved by all.

Native Plants Presentation: Donna Rothman introduced David Parker, a Professional Tree Expert with Tree Works, who is present to help answer any questions regarding this presentation. Recently, a request was made to the Mayor to amend the Borough Code to include a requirement that landscaping plans for new construction include 10 percent native plants. A meeting with the Mayor will be taking place in the near future to discuss the specifics of this request. She gave a detailed presentation on the history of native vegetation and the importance of native plants. Included in the presentation was an overview of the trees, shrubs, and flowering plants native to the Borough.

Donna mentioned the Borough currently has approved acceptable plant lists, which are posted on the website. She expressed a desire to post pictures of native vegetation to the website to further the public's education on these plants, and advocated for the development of a flowering plant list, as well.

David Parker educated those present regarding the difference between native and non-native plants, and gave an overview of the impacts to the ecosystem when native vegetation does not exist in an area.

Pollinator Garden: Donna Rothman reported a maintenance plan for the Pollinator Garden is being developed by Pat Sutton.

Tree Committee: Joe Dvorak mentioned the memorial tree program continues to be developed at this point in time, and the tree committee has begun planning for the fall tree planting. Additionally, the Tree Inventory Report has been completed, which will be a useful tool to the Borough.

Bay Issues: Kevin Coyle reported the Bay Park Marina revitalization project is ongoing. During the planning process, the dockmaster building was causing permitting issues. Those issues have now been resolved, as it is planned to demolish the existing structure, and rebuild it in a different location onsite in accordance with current building codes. A permit is expected to be received soon. Phase One of the project redevelops the boat ramp and bulkhead.

Associate Members for Environmental Commission: Donna Rothman noted a request was made to Borough Council to amend the Ordinance governing the Environmental Commission membership to allow Associate Members of the Environmental Commission. That request was not granted; however, the Environmental Commission is still permitted to have volunteers.

Other Updates: Donna Rothman reported the RFP for the ERI has been submitted to the Borough's Qualified Purchasing Agent, Joe Clark, for his review. Once that review is complete, the RFP will go before Borough Council for approval to advertise the RFP.

Chris Amacher announced the school has expressed interest in continuing the Dune Grasses in Classes initiative during this school year. A meeting has been held to develop the plan for this year's program, which will seed over 100 plants, and could be used as teaching aids in other lessons in the school.

Chris Amacher recommended the Environmental Commission explore more kid-focused educational programs concerning the environment.

Donna Rothman indicated the Borough is working with Bayshore Landscaping to correct the mulching issue contributing to the death of many trees on public properties. Soil samples have also been taken in an effort to solve the issues.

Adjournment at 5:11 pm.