

**Avalon Environmental Commission**  
**April 18, 2023**

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 and Jamie McDermott

**Absent:** Dave Coskey, Claire Driscoll, Beth Tipping and Chris Amacher

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023 meeting was made by Brian Reynolds and seconded by Kevin Coyle. Approved by all.

**Presentation – Watershed Management Area, Cape May County:** Tom Herson, Watershed Ambassador, introduced himself and gave a presentation titled “Thoughts About Salt Water Intrusion”, touching on topics including aquifers, desalinization, the effects of saltwater intrusion, and flooding solutions.

Donna Rothman asked if the Watershed Management Area has any recommendations for implementing native plant programs in Cape May County, with Tom Herson responding there are no recommendations at this point in time, as the Watershed Management Area is primarily focusing on educating the public at this point in time.

Discussion among the present members and Tom Herson took place concerning potential solutions for flood mitigation in Avalon, specifically.

**Review of Sustainable Landscaping and Native Plants pamphlet:** Donna Rothman distributed the final and printed version of the pamphlet, which was launched at Community Connections. The pamphlet will be promoted at the Avalon Free Public Library, Avalon Chamber of Commerce, all public buildings, and the website. She stressed the importance of educating the public concerning this initiative. Steve Malyszka suggested mailing the pamphlet and a cover letter to all landscapers serving the Borough, with Donna Rothman expressing a desire to deliver the pamphlet to all homeowners.

After discussion, the Environmental Commission members decided to further explore education and distribution options while exploring partnerships with the local nurseries in terms of keeping the native plants in stock and recommending those native plants to patrons.

**Offshore Wind Development and Whales:** Donna Rothman distributed an article from Rutgers titled “Q&A on Recent Whale Strandings and Offshore Wind Energy Development” to all present members of the Environmental Commission. Discussion took place concerning the article, wind energy development, and the importance of all studies being done and reviewed prior to any development beginning on this initiative. All agreed upon the importance of exercising all avenues of due diligence when considering a project of this scope and magnitude, and expressed hope that the lawmakers will rely on any and all research conducted.

**Environmental Commission Appointments and Reappointments:** Donna Rothman announced that Beth Tipping has decided to retire from the Environmental Commission, as of her term expiration date of June 30, 2023. Mayor Pagliughi has appointed Victoria Deever to fill the vacancy created by Beth's retirement effective July 1, 2023, and has reappointed Kevin Coyle, Claire Driscoll, and Jamie McDermott.

**Bay Park Marina:** Kevin Coyle reported all permits for this project are in place, and work is expected to begin in late fall 2023.

**Other Updates:** Jamie McDermott reported the hydraulic beach fill project has begun, and expressed hopes for a smooth project operation.

**Tree Committee:** Joe Dvorak reported all trees have been planted in association with the spring tree planting. Further, Borough Council is expected to introduce the Ordinance implementing a Tree Dedication Program at their meeting on April 26, 2023.

**Other Business:** Steve Malyszka announced the final paving on Ocean Drive is expected to begin this week.

Donna Rothman announced a retirement luncheon has been organized to recognize Mayor Pagliughi's retirement. The luncheon is to be held on June 15, 2023 for employees and Borough-appointed officials only, and requested that RSVPs for Environmental Commission members be reported to her as soon as possible. Additionally, the dune grass planting will be taking place Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Streets, and encouraged volunteerism at the event. The tree seedling program will be occurring on the same day.

Adjournment at 4:50 pm.