

**Avalon Environmental Commission**  
**September 19, 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:** Dave Coskey, Kevin Coyle, Claire Driscoll, Joe Dvorak, Steve Malyszka, Brian Reynolds, Donna Rothman, Jamie McDermott and Victoria Deever

**Absent:** Chris Amacher

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023 meeting was made by Jamie McDermott and seconded by Steve Malyszka. Approved by all.

**Review of DVMP Project and Landscape Plans:** Aaron Baker presented proposed DVMP plans for three new projects, as follows:

32-- 33<sup>rd</sup> Street: This project is sponsored by the property owner at 32-- 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and will be a maintenance project, consisting of removing damaging or dead vines and pruning of overgrown vegetation. All pruning will follow the best management practices.

A motion to approve this DVMP project was made by Steve Malyszka and seconded by Claire Driscoll. Approved by all.

5499 Dune Drive: This project was initiated by the property owner as a result of the reconstruction of the dwelling. The dunes near this property are a very unique environment, and will encompass the removal of 33 Japanese Black Pines, maintenance pruning including vine control on the private property, and the replanting of vegetation including cedars and shrubbery to fill in the areas left bare by the removed Japanese Black Pines. Possibilities for irrigating certain zones of the project area will be explored. If approved, the work will begin in early fall.

A motion to approve this DVMP project was made by Kevin Coyle and seconded by Brian Reynolds. Approved by all.

5609 Dune Drive: This is the largest project area undertaken via the DVMP program since its inception. The area in question is a primary focal point of the southern pine beetle infestation; therefore, this project will require the removal of 221 Japanese Black Pine. This project borders the 5499 Dune Drive project area, as well. A maintenance pruning is also planned for this project, with an extensive plan for replacement vegetation having been developed to revitalize the dunes once these trees are removed. Irrigation will be placed wherever possible.

A motion to approve this DVMP project was made by Steve Malyszka and seconded by Claire Driscoll. Approved by all.

**Review of Survey:** Donna Rothman announced this item has been tabled for the foreseeable future; however, ALHOA has offered to help distribute the survey when it is completed.

**Doug Tallamy Lecture Overview & Future Actions:** Donna Rothman gave an overview of the success of recent educational programs while expressing happiness with the impressive turnouts, namely for a lecture given by Doug Tallamy. She asked the Environmental Commission members to think about more options for sustainable programs to offer in 2024. A slideshow of photographs were shown depicting the successful lectures mentioned, and a discussion of the potential implementation of sustainable projects, including creating initiatives to restore lost resources. A suggestion was made to hold tours or contests for at-home pollinator gardens. The membership will formulate ideas and potentially collaborate with other volunteer organizations to focus on educating the public about sustainability.

**New Format and Legend for Borough Plant List:** Donna Rothman overviewed the existing legend and format of the Acceptable Plant List, which has been known to be less than user-friendly, with many members of the public complaining about the difficult readability of the list. A first draft of the proposed new format was presented, and a history of the plant list and its evolution was given. The first draft was well received by the Environmental Commission members, with a special thanks given to Victoria Deever for developing the excel sheet and format of the proposed list.

**Armacost Park:** Dave Coskey reported he and Joe Lomax recently met with the primary objective of addressing the resistance to the revitalization of the park, and have worked to create a short educational video that addresses this topic. The intent for this video is to create an open dialogue about the existing issues in the park and present solutions to those issues.

**Bay Park:** Kevin Coyle reported Tom Thornton is optimistic that work will begin in the fall season of 2024. Brian Reynolds raised the issue of many complaints being received about the color of the roofs of the structures being constructed on the property.

**Tree Committee:** Joe Dvorak announced the Tree Memorial Program was presented to Borough Council at the September 13, 2023 meeting, with formal consideration to be scheduled for an upcoming meeting. Dave Coskey reported approvals have been received to place an informational plaque for an oak tree planted at Armacost Park. The tree is the offspring of the famous 500 year old Salem Oak.

**Public Comments:** Barbara Stout, 406 20<sup>th</sup> Street, asked questions regarding procedures for clear cutting of trees on private property. The members of the Environmental Commission tried guiding Ms. Stout as much as possible as to the appropriate departments that can address her concerns.

Adjournment at 5:02 pm.