

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call – The following members were present:

Name	Title	Present/ Absent	Name	Title	Present/ Absent
Richard Bernardini	Chairperson	Present	Harley Cummins	Commissioner	Present
Marnie Niederhofer	Commissioner	Present	James Edwards	Commissioner	Present
Cyndy Legowski	Commissioner	Absent	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Present
Jason Walsh	Alternate #1	Present	Anthony Verde	Alternate # 2	Absent
Zarian Cabalo	Student Liaison	Present	Joseph Heng	Student Liaison	Present
Kasey Kuhnley	Student Liaison	Present	Coryn Driscoll	Student Liaison	Present

Open Public Meetings Announcement – Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes for the meetings on May 12, 2026 was made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by John Aitken. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- Donna Moore - expressed concern about lawn treatments in Veterans Park, rejection of bid for Solar power on City buildings
- Dave Winslow - 34th Street median will be modified in Fall '26, Sea Spray Condo building will be demolished summer '26, Cell phone tower is in negotiation discussions with City and Verizon, Boardwalk Master Plan Study will be presented Friday 6/12 6:00pm at the Tabernacle.

- Junetta Dix, ACT Engineers presented information on the dredging and fill for Shooting Island; Crook Horn Creek scheduled Spring '27, permits are in progress; Upweller tank cover is being reconstructed, new pumps with sleeves acquired, seeds applied for.

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 3 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 5 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed. No adverse findings
- Student Environmental Association
 - a. Ocean City High School
 - i. Joseph Heng and Zarian Cabbalo were congratulated on their service, Kasey Kuhnley and Coryn Driscoll were welcomed as next year's officers.
 - ii. Red Cup Project
 - 1. SEA will submit the project for the Sustainable Jersey Success Story competition
 - 2. 100 cups for 26-27 class
 - 3. Domestic source identified
 - iii. Beach Toy Crates
 - 1. Installed at 3 locations, 1st Street, 18th Street and 40th Street
- ANJEC
 - a. Open Space Grant was approved for North End Veterans Park Garden.
 - b. "Best of NJ's Outdoors" program will include an opportunity to view and learn about our pollinator gardens and beach plum programs.
 - i. Program was selected for a site review by ANJEC, to be scheduled.
- Monarch Waystation
 - a. North End Veterans Park
 - i. Collaboration in progress with the OC Garden Civic Assoc., OC Garden Club and OCEC.
 - 1. Installation was held Tuesday 5/19 5:00 PM
 - b. Potential locations
 - i. Tabernacle sign at 6th Street & Asbury Avenue; Ocean City Welcome sign at 55th Street; and 34th Street Gateway.
- Lectures/Education Program
 - a. Potential Drought advisory
- R. Bernardini advised DPW to provide locations for storm drain medallion installations.
- Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission will have a tour of the Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority recycling center and landfill on June 17, 2026, EC Commissioners are welcome to attend.
- R. Bernardini provided an overview of a reusable bag recycling program by Goatote. Goatote cleans, sanitizes and redistributes bags to food banks/pantries as part of a New Jersey Clean Community program.
 - a. Local program to be investigated, partner with EC events
- Jason Walsh presented his Stockton University project on Locating Ocean City Flood Risk and Urbanization-Induced Habitat Fragmentation.
 - Information was submitted to the Administration

- Boardwalk Native Plant demonstration project. Harley Cummins presented and made a motion to forward the concept of planters at pavilions with signage to the City for consideration for installation. It was seconded by Marnie Niederhofer, those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.
 - Information submitted to Administration
- The Sustainable Jersey Success Stories program was reviewed. Our program of pollinator gardens was identified as a project to submit.
- C. Cummins suggested we study the installation of an observation deck to oversee the 34th Street marsh. Use Beach Access funds?
- M.Niederhofer to provide info on Pinelands education opportunities.

New Business

- 2026 Adopt a Beach program was reviewed, North Street
- NJ PACT REAL Legacy program has been deferred to July 2027, interim period in flux.
- Wilson Stauffer, bird house project, has been named an Eagle Scout.
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The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by Harley Cummins. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM, in person at the Cape May County Howard S. Stainton Senior Center, Room S107 Senior Lounge/Card Room, 1735 Simpson Avenue.