

OCEAN CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes – Tuesday, July 14, 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	Present	John Aitken	Commissioner	Present
Jessica Fenton	City Liaison	Absent	Doug Blackman	Commissioner	Present
Jason Walsh	Alternate #1	Absent	Anthony Verde	Alternate # 2	Absent
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 June 9, 2026 was made by Doug Blackman and seconded by Cyndy Legowski. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Public Comments

- None

Pending Business

- Submitted Plan Review
 - a. 4 CAFRA/NJDEP notices, 0 Treatment Works, 7 Zoning/Planning Board submissions were reviewed. No adverse findings
- Student Environmental Association
 - a. Ocean City High School
 - i. Beach Toy Crates were installed at 3 locations: 1st Street, 18th Street, and 40th Street. Commissioners noted activity with toy placement.

- ANJEC
 - a. Open Space Grant was approved for North End Veterans Park Garden. Program was selected for a site review by ANJEC, to be scheduled.
 - b. “Best of NJ’s Outdoors” program will include an opportunity to view and learn about our pollinator gardens and beach plum programs.
- Monarch Waystation
 - a. North End Veterans Park: installation was held Tuesday 5/19 at 5:00 PM.
 - b. New potential locations: Tabernacle sign at 6th Street & Asbury Avenue; Ocean City Welcome sign at 55th Street; and 34th Street Gateway.
- Lectures/Education Program
 - a. Topics currently being sought.
- R. Bernardini advised DPW to provide locations for storm drain medallion installations.
- Ocean City Utility Advisory Commission had a tour of the Cape May County Municipal Utility Authority recycling center and landfill on June 17, 2026. An informative tour took place.
- 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, but was not receptive citing several concerns.
- The Sustainable Jersey Success Stories program was reviewed. Our program of pollinator gardens was identified and submitted. SEA submitted the Red Cup project.

New Business

- Green Fair is scheduled for 8/21/26. Activity to be discussed in 8/11/26 meeting.
- M. Niederhofer noted the Project Monarch Exchange at the Cape May Arts and Science Center. Several Commissioners noted a reduction in local monarch sightings.
- R. Bernardini presented “Drought and Your Water”, discussion noted efforts to reduce water consumption and the cost of Ocean City’s water via New Jersey American Water Co. compared to other Cape May shore towns.
- Doug Blackman noted that the entrance to the wildlife sanctuary on Bay Avenue appears to have been treated with vegetation herbicide.
- The Seed Library participants were recognized and asked to list their gardens on the pollinator-pathway website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. Motions to adjourn were made by Marnie Niederhofer and seconded by Cyndy Legowski. Those eligible to vote adopted it unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 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.