

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Zoom

February 25 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Sage Block, Camille Guigliano, Beth Jacobwitz, David Lipsky, Emily Wicks, Griffin Pollak, Joe DiFrancisco

1. **Minutes.** VOBEC approved January minutes.
2. **Newsletter.** EW to send around another draft of the newsletter for VOBEC to review.
Action: VOBEC members to comment by Friday for EW to send out this weekend.
3. **Signature Block.** VOBEC discussed using a signature block for external emails.
Action: SB will edit the signature block for the vobec.fi@gmail.com email.
4. **Plant Swap.** VOBEC discussed logistics for the Plant Swap event. BJ submitted a building use permit for the OB dock.
Action: LL to order plants to BJ home.
5. **Website.** No Update.
Action: VOBEC members to continue updating website content.
6. **Recycling.** VOBEC discussed how best to determine success of the recycling pilot and whether additional recycling bins may be needed in the Village. JD noted recycling bin locations are included in the bid specifications for the upcoming garbage contract.
Action: SB to follow-up and copy JD on the correspondence.
7. **Garbage Contract Renewal.** Discussion of a new five-year contract starting March 31st. JD noted that recycling will be included in the bid specs along with the map of new recycling bins. The contract will be paid by the ton rather than for a flat service, and additional cans will be tracked and billed accordingly. CG and DL had a meeting with DEC Region 1 representatives and discussed costs related to solid waste management plans across the State.
Action: No action. VOBEC will review the contract when it comes through.
8. **Solid Waste Composting Discussion.** CG and DL discussed opportunities meetings held with waste reduction consultants and CET Long Island. CET offers composting coaches and guidance. VOBEC also discussed potential for a partnership with Brand Builders. CG will attend a composting webinar in March to learn more.
Action: VOBEC to review items sent around by CG and DL.

CG to coordinate with Daniel Ricci from DEC Region 1, who will make a presentation to JD on waste reduction options.

9. **NRI.** Work on the NRI is continuing.
Action: SB to continue working on flyover dataset.
10. **Community Composting.** VOBEC discussed planning for long-term solutions as more participants join and two tumblers become full over time. VOBEC will reopen the program to more participants starting in the Spring.
Action: EW to send around a new composting interest questionnaire
11. **Instagram.** VOBEC discussed new ideas for posting and outreach.
Action: SB to finish Horseshoe Crab post and make a post regarding VOBEC's new merchandise.
12. **Beach Management Plan.** DL is drafting an outline for a beach management plan and will circulate for review.
Action: DL to circulate to VOBEC members for review when ready.
13. **Enforcement of tree legislation.** VOBEC working on certification requirements flyer to reinforce the tree legislation and spread continued awareness to local landscapers.
Action: BW to write and send around documents, VOBEC to review.
14. **EAD.** BJ spoke to Adreinne Esposito from Citizen Campaign for the Environment to speak on Water Quality for Environmental Awareness Day.
Action: BJ to coordinate with Adrienne Esposito on possible dates for EAD.
15. **Summer intern.** VOBEC discussed hosting a summer intern to assist with various projects.
Action: BJ will invite prospective intern to the next meeting to discuss possible collaborations.
16. **Summary of New projects for OBA meeting on March 24.** BJ created a list of new projects to share at the next OBA meeting including composting, continued NRI work, collaboration with Save the great South Bay at OBYG, and expanded recycling bins in Town.
Action: VOBEC members to comment on the document.
17. **A Fragile Paradise film.** EW and BJ attended film screening about Fire Island.
18. **Next meeting.** March 25th 7:30 pm via zoom