

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2025 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Sage Block, Camille Guigliano, Beth Jacobwitz, David Lipsky, Lisa Lowe, Emily Wicks,
Guest: Griffin Pollak

1.

Minutes. There was brief discussion of the draft minutes for VOBEC meetings held on March 20 and April 28th, 2025. Final approved minutes will be distributed to VOBOT shortly.

Action: Future minutes need to be prepared on One Note so that they can be distributed and edited by VOBEC members more easily.

2.

Membership. Griffin Pollak attended the meeting as a guest so that he could be interviewed about his interest in joining VOBEC and how he could contribute.

Action: The members present agreed that his name should be submitted to the Mayor and VOBOT for approval as the seventh member of VOBEC.

3.

Newsletter. EW indicated that the newsletter went out last week.

Action: VOBEC needs to think about summer newsletter content

4.

EAD. No contact has been made with the organization Surfrider.

Action: DL to look further into organizing an EAD that ties together water quality, aquaculture, and an Oyster Fest. See item 15 below.

5.

LWRP. No change.

Action: Ask JD whether this is still of interest to the VOB.

6.

Beach Management. DL addressed comments received from VOBEC on list of questions for VOBBD and VOBPD. Forwarded list of questions to JD.

Action: DJ to discuss/resolve with J D whether to await written response or whether he can arrange a meeting with representatives of the two Departments.

7.

Natural Resource Inventory. No change.

Action: SB expecting to return to VOB soon and will work with GP on piloting NRI using GIS

8.

Community Composting. The location, design, and logistics of community composting unresolved.

Action: CG to try to set up a meeting with KS and JD about possible sites.

9.

Recycling Containers. The source of funding for recycling containers was discussed.

Actions: Scott Hirsch sent a text, that the CoC had a received a Community Development Grant, and that the “the money is there”. SB to follow up on the particulars.

10.

Instagram Account. EW and SB created VOBEC Instagram account

Action: EW and SB to continue to upload content. Need to repost information on Plant Swap

11.

Plant Swap/Brush Day: BJ to determine if remaining funding in VOBEC budget of about \$8000 can be used for 2025 brush collection and chipping. The mechanics of chipping for brush day was discussed, such issues as whether signup needed, limitations on quantities, whether there would be a fee attached etc.

Action: BJ to determine whether the 2024 funds can be used for the brush collection and chipping. NY State Nursery called, plants will ship on May 7th. Will ship to VOB office, care JD. EW—to talk to Ian about showing up to Plant Swap with plants and supplies like last year. BJ to contact Vinnie Fazio and JD about cost, location and process for brush chipping.

12.

Oyster Shell Recycling Program Kick Off. CG went to CoC meeting on April 24. Seven restaurants are interested in participating with Oyster Shell Recycling program. CG obtained names and contact of restauranters. Currently, the program uses two main barrels for shipment back to mainland by FIF. Based on feedback at meeting, there may be a need for a third barrel.

Action: BJ to email Diane Montes about her role in collection process

13.

Banners: EW ordering three banners from Vista print.

14.

Tree Legislation: Discussed need to inform public about tree legislation and where to report a complaint if a citizen wants to report a possible violation of the ordinance

Actions: Post tree legislation on OB bulletin board and Instagram.

15.

Oyster Fest/EAD: Discussed possibly tying together an oyster fest to play up EAD devoted to improvements in water quality in GSB and Marine waters, and how improvements support more aquaculture in the GSB.

Actions: DL to contact Green Wave, NYSeaGrant, DEC, and others for possible late summer event.

Next Meeting. May 12th 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Lowe & David Lipsky