

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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

1. **Minutes.** There was a delay in sending out Minutes for March 20, 2025 VOBEC Zoom meeting. Discussion and approval of prior meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.
2. **Membership.** Dylan Fried submitted a Letter of Resignation to VOBEC chair. A possible replacement candidate for membership was discussed-- Griffin Pollak, who was contacted on March 26, and who expressed interest in joining VOBEC.
Action: The members present agreed that the Chair should set up an interview with Griffin and VOBEC members ASAP.
3. **Newsletter.** BJ and DL prepared and submitted articles for Newsletter. Discussed potential spring opening tips and including the upcoming plant swap.
Action: EW to finalize and send out Newsletter.
4. **EAD.** No contact has been made with the organization Surfrider.
Action: None
5. **LWRP.** No change. (At prior meeting Joe D had indicated he would discuss with VOB whether VOB was still preceding with any revisions to the LWRP.)
Action: Ask JD on whether this is still of interest to the VOB.
6. **Beach Management.** DL indicated that he circulated a draft set of questions to VOBEC concerning their beach management responsibilities during off-season of Building Department and Police Department. Only minor comments received by DL.
Action:
 - a. DL to address comment and forward to Joe D the list of questions for VOBBD and VOBPD.
 - b. DL to discuss/resolve with Joe D whether to await written response, or whether Joe D can arrange or facilitate a meeting with VOBEC and representatives of the two Departments.
7. **Natural Resource Inventory.** No change.
Action: SB to continue exploring assistance from the Sierra Club in conducting an NRI.
8. **Community Composting.** VOBEC received permission from OBYG to utilize two composting bins for this effort.

Actions:

- a. CG/Joe D to continue efforts to identify possible location and design for community composting efforts.
- b. CG to arrange for meeting with KS in the spring to look at locations.

9. **Recycling Containers.** The source of funding for recycling containers is still unclear and unresolved.

Actions: SB to draft email for CoC on whether CoC was obligated or willing to provide funding and support for Recycling Containers.

10. **Instagram Account.** EW and SB created VOBEC Instagram account

Action: EW and SB to continue to upload content.

11. **Plant Swap/Brush Day:** There were discussions about VOBEC using money in our budget for our chipping event.

Action: BJ to determine whether the 2024 funds can be used for the brush collection and chipping.

12. **Banners:** Joe D indicated that VOB did have an account with the vendor. VOBEC will need to pay for the banners using a VOB purchase order containing VOB tax ID.

Actions: EW to order three banners (at approximately \$100 each) through VOB purchase order.

13. **Oyster Shell Recycling Program Kick Off.** CG reported some pushback from CoC on Oyster Shell recycling. CG and SB working to attend the April 24 CoC meeting to see if it is possible to obtain renewed interest in the oyster collection program.

Action: CG and SB to attend the next CoC meeting, if agreement reached.

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 the possible theme of 2025 EAD: presentations from NYSDEC and others to report on improving current and future water quality conditions and trends in Great South Bay and resulting expansion of aquaculture activities. Consider possible tie-in of EAD with an Oyster Fest to celebrate the return of commercial oyster industry.

Actions: DL to contact NYSDEC, NY SeaGrant, local oyster person, others for possible summer event.

16. **Dune Day:** We won't know whether this is needed until later in the season.

17. **Email Monitoring:** Email received from Carol Brown regarding Climate Smart Communities. We agreed that we do not want to join right now.

18. **Youth Group:** No update.

19. **Next Meeting.** April 28th, 6:30 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Lowe & David Lipsky