

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025 via Zoom

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

Minutes. No minutes from prior meetings were presented or approved.

Newsletter – No one has submitted content yet. We need to get everything within 3 weeks. CG to include a brief piece on tracking marine mammals.

Website. All members need to continue to conduct annual website reviews.

NRI – SB to send out instructions for logging onto the app and has renewed the GIS license. JD mentioned that VOB has its own GIS system, SB to send info and invoice for license (\$100/year) to JD. SB needs to put info on the NRI app in the newsletter.

Oyster Shell Recovery (OSR). It was pointed out that OS Recovery is the preferred term over OS Recycling. Discussed getting FI School involvement in OSR for oyster shells that wash up on the beach as well as encouraging beachgoers to use “buckets on the beach” for OSR. Will pursue in the spring.

Community Composting. Allison Allen from NYC MSWAB attended the meeting. She had a number of ideas and suggestions about how to improve solid waste management. As of this meeting, only a few people have been onboarded for use of composting drums.

Instagram Account (IA). EW indicated that our IA account has 2000 views, and that 372 people have opened Dune Day flyer. SB is hosting a pumpkin carving contest and roasting pumpkin seeds. CG to write up something about what to do with old pumpkins.

OBA purchase of VOBEC branded merchandise. BJ is to send the invoice from Sara to Maria. GP to send pictures of hat/shirts to BJ.

Dune Day. JD approved ordering of \$4000 worth of beachgrass plugs (~ 5000 plugs) with Line Item for labor of \$2200 to assist in Dune Day. BJ to coordinate with Vinnie Fazio on the order. JD to talk to Kevin about watering beachgrass. Need to advertise Dune Day at the VOBOT meeting and send out info via email and IA. Sand fencing needs to be repaired at several locations between Ocean Road and Surf Road.

Columbia U. Guest. Deepanksha Gillakamsetty-Master’s Program in Architectural Design is doing a study on resilience and how residents adapt to climate change and sea level rise. She spoke to residents in FI Pines and was interested in the VOB perspective. She was learning about how much the island changes between the seasons, and becoming aware that coastal erosion is a constant stressor.

LWRP. NA

Beach Management Plan. NA

Next Meeting. Oct. 28th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.