

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes June 2, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom

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

1. **Minutes:** Draft Minutes for May 12th meeting were approved.
2. **Membership:** GP's membership in VOBEC was approved by VOBOT on May 17th.
3. **Newsletter:** Newsletter topics were discussed. No specific assignments or deadlines announced. Topics include: Mosquitoes (Instagram only), ways to reuse wastes including composting (check State programs that mention methods to reduce), oyster shells, bird flu (Instagram only), VOB's water quality statement. Some mention of 2 professors at SUNY SB, and talking to Islip about recycling?
4. **EAD:** Contacted via email and/or phone messages-Cornell Cooperative Extension working on GSB oysters, DEC bioextraction coordinator, and Maureen Dunn (Seatuck). As of the meeting, have had problems identifying a speaker for August EAD from above list. On day of meeting received information about possible speaker both in July and in August for discussion on water quality and oysters in GSB. DL identified videos that could be used from Dr. Gobbler's team at Stony Brook.

Actions:

CG to contact Maureen Dunn as David has not heard back from her.

DL to continue reaching out to the various parties. If issues, DL to contact BJ to have her reach out.

5. **LWRP:** No updates from JDF.

Actions: JD to contact BOT and identify whether VOB is still considering preparing revisions to LWRP for submission to NYSDOS.

6. **Beach Management:** No response from Kevin Schilling (KS) has been received by VOBEC.

Actions: JD will contact KS regarding replying.

7. **Natural Resource Inventory:** SB indicated she will work on it next week when she is out.
8. **Community Composting:** CG is meeting with JD and KS to have an in-person meeting with KS on possible community composting site locations, as well as to identify any concerns about operation and maintenance of the site. Katherine (?) has suggested a visit to the Saltaire to review their composting operation.

Actions: CG and SB will arrange meeting.

9. **Recycling Containers & Garbage:** Recycling containers still have not been deployed in business district by CoC or VOB. Put reminder on Instagram about not having overflowing garbage cans.

10. **Instagram Account:** Needs more content.

Actions:

LL to prepare mosquito update for the Instagram account.

DL to prepare bird flu update for the Instagram account.

11. **VOBEC Website:** Still need to add content to cover last year's events. Need headshot and bio for GP. Full review still needed for 2025.

Action:

EM/SG will start adding content from last year and the meeting minutes.

BJ will review the existing content and will provide list on who should review what.

12. **Plant Swap/Brush collection:** Plant Swap this year had better attendance than last year. We need a better advertising campaign if we do a plant swap next year.

13. **Banners:** Have been ordered.

14. **Oyster Shell recycling kick-off event.** CG indicated white buckets came in and were being delivered to the restaurants. Restaurants are more engaged than last year.

Action: CG continuing follow-up with restaurants.

15. **Enforcement of Tree legislation:** No change. Discussed that individuals could use the VOB "Report a Concern" app if they see trees being cut down and want to complain.

Action: JDF to determine if can a button for this topic could be added to the app.

16. **Dune Day:** Too early to tell if Dune Day will be necessary this year. Keep monitoring.

17. **OBYG Collaborative:** OBYG asked if VOBEC would collaborate on helping them established a Great South Bay Oyster Garden to put in and to agree on hosing down oysters once/week. They asked VOBEC to contribute \$1,000 to this event. As we cannot contribute, discussed whether we could help by providing educational materials. GP also indicated that OBYG was short on CITs this year.

Action: GP to let OBYG know that we cannot contribute funding and to suggest that OBYG reach out to OBA or OBCF.

18. **Ocean Conservancy Beach cleanup:** DL received email asking if we needed any supplies.

Action: DL and CG to determine if we need to order any new supplies from Conservancy.

19. **Next Meeting:** In person on Sunday June 22, 10 a.m. at Windswept.

Action: BJ to call Bunny or Jackie to reserve Windswept if we have the meeting indoors. If we meet outdoors, no reservation is required.

Respectfully submitted--- Lisa Lowe & David Lipsky