

VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

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

Absent: Dylan Fried

1. **Minutes.** Prior practice used for reporting and archiving approved meeting minutes was discussed. The prior practice was for the Chair to forward approved minutes to Joe D and Bunny for forwarding to VOBOT. Additionally, periodically (every 3-4 months), the approved minutes during the reporting period would be forwarded to Peter, the webmaster, to archive on VOBEC website.
Action: BJ will forward to EW/SB for uploading the VOBEC website.
2. **Membership.** VOBEC has received no response from Dylan Fried regarding his absence from all prior meetings. EW has identified a possible replacement candidate for membership - Griffin Pollock.
Action: EW to set up a call with Griffen, to ascertain his interest and qualifications for membership.
3. **Newsletter.** Topics agreed.
Action:
BJ to prepare an article on "Mulching" and on "things to keep in mind for a spring opening."
DL to prepare an article on the "lights out initiative"
4. **EAD.** At a prior meeting, VOBEC members discussed contacting Surfrider to see if there was any interest in providing a speaker and topic for EAD. CG was unable to attend a Surfrider meeting as initially planned and thus, wasn't able to discuss in person with Surfrider
Action:
BJ to check with her Surfrider contact to see if they might be interested in participating in our EAD.
VOBEC members: Think of other ideas for EAD.
5. **LWRP:** No response received from the Board of Trustees (BOT) to letter sent by VOBEC in 2024 on status of LWRP update. Updating of the plan is no longer part of the regulation but is was noted that the existing plan is out of date. Request for comments on revisions still on VOB website.
Action: Joe D to discuss with VOB about the status of revising LWRP.
6. **Beach Management.** DL indicated that there were questions that needed to be addressed by Kevin Schelling (KS) and Chief Hesse about their Department's beach management responsibilities.
Action: DL will draft an email for review by VOBEC members.
Joe D indicated that the list of questions should be sent to him, and he will facilitate obtaining answers directly or through a conference call or meeting.

7. **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI):** SG indicated that there will be no action on this until later in the Spring.
8. **Climate Smart Community.** VOBEC agreed on hold off on any effort to pursue a NYSDEC Climate Smart Community application.
9. **Community Composting.** KS indicated that ball field would not be good for Composting site. There was some discussion of design elements for composter, such as need for locks. DL reported on his quick check on any NYSDEC regulatory requirements for a small community composting site/facility. A small community composting effort appears not to be regulated though there may be some need to keep track of quantities of materials being composted and need to insure no odor complaints.
Actions: EW will contact OBYG to see if the two composting bins located at Windswept could be used by the Community.
10. **Recycling Bins.** VOBEC still searching for a source of funding for these bins. Scott Hirsh of the Mermaid has indicated that he spoke to Joe D about obtaining funding as part of a VOB grant application.
11. **Instagram Account.** EW and SB have developed a VOBEC Instagram account. They indicated that Griffen reach out through this account.
12. **Plant Swap.** Agreed to hold on May 18, 2025 and to try to hold the brush chipping event at the same time. DL ordered the Long Island package of trees on 2/27/25. At Joe D's request, the Invoice was changed to be invoiced and delivered directly to VOB—Attn: Joe D. Agreed to order the Long Island package of trees/scrubs from NYSDEC.
Action: We should check with Ian Levine to see if he can bring plants to sell and also if he can bring the trees that we gave him last year (he hasn't sold any) – not assigned.
13. **Brush Collection/Chipping:** Kevin indicated that any chipping operations should not be held on ball field. Vinny has chipper on the Island. BJ suggested that it would likely be better to have people sign up for chipping at their residence rather than at a centralized location. Joe D to ask how much it will cost for chipping under different scenarios.
Action: Joe D to check with Kevin S on how much VOB pays for renting a chipper and using Village employees to operate chipper versus subcontracting chipping operations to a contractor.
14. **Banners:** The 3 banners will cost a total of approximately \$300. Joe indicated that Emily should send invoice to Joe for payment or log in info for EW's vendor website account so he can get this paid.
15. **Oyster Shell:** CG reported some pushback from OBRA on Oyster Shell recycling. Also, some prior restaurant participants have changed ownership. CG and SB still looking for a date for meeting with OBRA to discuss and encourage participating in the Oyster Shell recycling effort for 2025.
Action: CG to continue to work to set up date with OBRA for next meeting date (tentative date is April 24).

16. **Tree Legislation:** There was a brief discussion at the end of the meeting about whether the new tree legislation was being enforced. There was also discussion on advising residents of who to call or contact if they see a large tree being cut down without a permit. There was also discussion of need for more data on whether any fines have been issued for violation of the ordinance.
17. **Oyster Fest:** Tabled to next meeting
18. **Dune Day:** Based on current conditions on the beach, we probably will not need to sponsor a dune day in the fall. There was some discussion on need for a condition assessment of whether water/fertilization was needed for dune grass and whether there are any sections of sand fencing in need of repair.
19. **Monitoring email.** Carol Brown, who SB met at NYSACC conference, is interested in working with Long Island conservation groups to share experiences at implementing local conservation activities. CG indicated she might be interested in furthering the conversation with Carol.

Next Meeting. April 8th, 7 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Lowe & David Lipsky