OCEAN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Regular Meeting February 4, 2013 7:00 PM

Meeting began at 7:02 PM.

Call to Order – Flag Salute

Open Public Meeting Act – Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, sending copies of the notice of the meeting properly provided adequate notice of the meeting to the Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Administration Building.

Roll Call:	Ed Covitz	Tom Leaming
	Lorraine Flohr	Don Lippincott
	Bob Knowles	Pola Galie

Members Absent: Jack Henderson, Bob Knowles

A motion was made by Ms. Flohr seconded by Mr. Covitz to approve the January 7, 2013 minutes. All in favor: (aye).

Correspondence was reviewed by the Committee.

Secretary put on record the official papers will be the Asbury Park Press and the Press of Atlantic City. This was missed at the Re-org.

OLD BUSINESS

<u>**Consortium Update**</u> – Speakers have been tied down. A letter has been sent to Ocean First Foundation requesting help. We will receive \$300 from Island Heights Environmental Commission to help defer costs. The save the date cards need to be out as soon as possible.

Bamboo Discussion – Secretary confirmed to the Mayor that currently we are in the gathering data stage. Secretary contacted Stafford last month and their position is they talked about it and are not going to address it at this point. They felt an ordinance is not enforceable. Mr. Knowles is interested in moving forward with this when he returns. Ms. Galie spoke that she felt the public needs to be made aware as there is misinformation regarding bamboo. Mr. Learning saw the bamboo on the parkway. Mr. Learning feels we need to move on an ordinance now and not wait. Ms. Flohr commented on the bunch growing on Main Street. The Commission spoke about the invasive species list for Ocean County and possibly getting a hold of this list. Ms. Galie would look into this. The Commission agreed this was a pro-active step.

A motion was made by Chairman Lippincott to open to the public. Seconded by Mr. Covitz. All in favor: (aye).

PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN

Corrected to exclude "Pinelands" in first paragraph – March 4, 2013.

Ms. Socha, 109 Brookville Road approached and spoke. She thanked the Commission for their efforts thus far in dealing with the bamboo issue. Ms. Socha's property does not fall in the wetlands. She had done that research previously.

The Commission agreed that the bamboo is encroaching on the other native plants in the area. After the Commission discussed this further it was decided that the ordinances should be gathered from local towns that have passed them and send a memo over to the Township Committee. Secretary will try to retrieve the ordinance from Toms River, and Mr. Covitz will check into Barnegat. A memo will be worked on to send to the Township Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Learning to close to the public, seconded by Chairman Lippincott. All in favor: (aye).

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

The Commission had a brief discussion regarding Arbor Day and Founders Day and laurel and the lack of blooms. Founder's Day would be a good educational venue to distribute information on bamboo. Beach Plum Trees were a big hit and the Commission would like to do again. Chairman Lippincott brought the brochure to order and gave to the secretary to do so. The Commission would like to invite the beekeeper from last year to attend Founder's Day again. Coloring pages were suggested to pass out to the younger kids. Ms. Galie will check into Project Learning Tree that may have coloring pages that we could use. The older kids can write an essay and the younger kids could color. Or the winner of a drawing contest could be put on the cleanup day t-shirt.

Chairman Lippicott spoke about the storm and the new advisory base flood elevation. Mr. Leaming spoke about the bay and what is and is not in there from the storm.

A motion was made by Mr. Learning to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Lippincott. All in favor: (aye).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth O'Connor Secretary