



November 28, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-11

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting held in-person in the
Steve Gillingham Meeting Room, Municipal Building
And via conference bridge.**

Attendance:

MEC/Green Team Members	Present?
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
John Mooney	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
Green Team Members	
Jan O'Malley	No
Peter Andruss	No
Ann Lewis	No

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes

Due to an email technical glitch, the October minutes that were taken by John Mooney were not received by Barbara Benz and were not able to be approved at the meeting. They will therefore be emailed to all the members and approved accordingly.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business

DEP/Planning Board

- Since the last meeting, John Wesson, communicated with the planning board pertaining to the draft protocol between the MEC and Planning Board regarding communication between the two, and that this should be a planning board agenda item. John learned that there is protocol regarding legalities and the borough council decision process, and this matter is expected to be an agenda item early 2024.
- John W. reported that there were no new variances of interest to the MEC.

Preservation of Swan Point Project

- John Mooney and Jan O'Malley met with Elissa Commins at Brick Township Engineering regarding Swan Point Restoration on November 8, 2023. Elissa provided a summary of this meeting via email which notates that Brick has partnered with the National Wildlife Refuge System to embark on a marsh restoration project within the Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife



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Refuge. As the project has developed, there has been discussion about the potential of expanding the marsh restoration to adjacent parcels where the NJ DEP owns land which includes the Swan Point Peninsula. Brick is seeking a point of contact within the DEP to discuss what, if any restoration possibilities are available for this parcel. Further erosion of Swan Point will negatively impact the durability of the marsh restoration at the Forsythe area, so it would be in the best interest of the DEP to include Swan Point in the project. The email also included notes regarding grants and costs associated with the projects.

- On November 15, Jan O'Malley forwarded the email to Jennifer Clayton, the Superintendent of Island Beach State Park. Jennifer confirmed that Swan Point falls under her area of responsibility as IBSP Director. She will review and get back to Jan and John.

Patty Brand Memorial Garden Shoreline Protection & Garden Maintenance

- There are no new developments as the winter season is upon us.

MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives

Calendar

- December 18, 2023 meeting. It was decided that this meeting would be cancelled as many members are away at this time of year and it is a relatively dormant time of the year at the Jersey Shore.
- The spring COA (Coastal Ocean Action) Beach Sweep is set for April 13, 2024 from 9AM – 12PM.
- Barnegat Bay Blitz 2024 - Exact date to be determined.
- Rachael Miller of the Rozalia Project (<https://www.rozaliaproject.org>) is scheduled to speak at MYC on Friday, May 24, 2024.
- The fall COA Beach Sweep is set for October 19, 2024 from 9AM – 12 PM.

Fall Newsletter

- The fall newsletter was completed and posted and can be accessed on the borough website.

MEC Attended Educational Events:

- No events were attended.

Upcoming Events:

- NJ Coastal and Climate Resilience Conference in March 14 – 16, 2024 Monmouth University sponsored by NJ DEP
- The NJ Sustainability in Motion Conference, March 6 – 8, 2024, Ceasars Atlantic City



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New Topics:

- The calendar for 2024 was discussed and will remain the same as 2023 with the meetings to be held on the 4th Tuesday of every month. The only deviation will be for the December meeting to be held on 12/18/2024.
- Barbara Benz informed us that she has requested that she not be re-appointed as MEC chairwoman. She has served her term, and we are all very grateful for her leadership and service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 01/23/2024 at 5:30 pm.