

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 12, 2013

Meeting No: 2013-02

Members Present: Bixby, Buck, McIntyre, Nelson, Pilling

Members Absent: Chance

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the January meeting were approved.
- The timing and content of the first newsletter was discussed. The following topics will be included in the newsletter and one person was assigned to research and provide a draft on each topic:
  - Soil Testing - Eileen
  - Dune Maintenance and Care - Courtney
  - Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Disposal Guidelines - Eileen
  - Landscaping Recommendations - BethThe newsletter will be distributed in April.
- The topic of animal control was discussed. There is a potential that with all the empty or partially destroyed homes, that feral cats and other vectors could become an issue. Connie will contact Ms. Denise Boughton to discuss the issue.
- Chairman Bixby led a discussion on the water quality of the bay. Courtney has spoken with a professional colleague regarding water quality sampling. The NJDEP has a great deal of data on the bay's water quality prior to the Super Storm Sandy, however it is not known how much sampling and data has been collected by the State after the storm. The State will be contacted and if there is data available, Courtney will review and report back to the committee.
- Jenny Buck provided a detailed summary of two seminars she attended last week. One seminar was sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Partnership and the other meeting was sponsored by the NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council. The following are highlights from the meetings:
  - NJDEP is developing an inland flood plan, looking for volunteers for developing an emergency response system, Ms. Buck may volunteer.
  - DEP Leeds lab and Jenny will remain in (minimally) biweekly communication on the water quality tests they bring in from the north end of the bay for the course of the spring.
  - USGS was in the process of topographical/ bottom mapping of Barnegat Bay as Sandy hit, and returned to do LIDAR mapping by plane immediately afterwards. USGS does not yet know how good the post-storm data will be – murky water is hard to map this way. They are scheduled to do another mapping this spring.
  - The Littoral Society has produced a 100 page habitat survey of natural areas affected by Sandy

- There is a strong belief in the scientific community that dredging the bay could lead to more, not less flooding.
  - Barnegat Bay Partnership is looking for a list of post-Sandy research and implementation needs to fund.
  - USGS scientists overseeing testing at the Mantoloking bridge stated they are watching to see if we get a surprise algae bloom as early as March this year.
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- The group discussed shellfish, crabbing, fishing, swimming and other uses of the bay. For now, the local (pre-Sandy) long-term and seasonal shellfish (clams, oysters, etc) bans at the north end of the bay remain in place. Tentatively until we have more information, the Commission will consider recommending discouraging crabbing by residents until more is known about the water quality of the bay. As the fish begin to arrive in the spring, the Commission will review the water quality again in terms of fishing. The DEP is currently reporting fecal coliform specifically within the safe range in February; the Commission will be continuing to review all reports attainable for microbes, such as algae and bacteria, on a regular basis as we move into the spring.
  - The next meeting will be held March 12, 2013 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chariman