

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 18, 2014

Meeting No: 2014-02

Members Present: Bixby, Buck, Nelson, Pilling, Wesson (via telephone)
Members Absent: Chance, McIntyre

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the January 2014 meeting were approved.
- C. Bixby stated that the Commission sent a letter to the NJDEP supporting the Borough of Bay Head's grant application for a non-point source pollution control project for Twilight Lake.
- The group discussed potential dates for the lecture by Dr. Wootton to the Commission and Seaweeders. April 8th and April 15 were proposed with the final date dependent on Dr. Wootton's availability. It was also decided to move the lecture to the Mantoloking Fire Co. Meeting Room. C. Bixby to coordinate with the fire company.
- A discussion was held regarding the landscape and planting plan proposed by the NJDOT for the Rt. 35 restoration. There is agreement that the current plan does not utilize enough native plants or indigenous planting techniques. After the discussion it was decided to ask the Borough Council to pass a resolution encouraging the NJDOT to revisit their planting schedule and landscaping plan and to utilize more native plants. C. Bixby to discuss this with C. Nelson
- Jenny Buck led a discussion regarding the Steel Sheet Pile Dune Restoration Project. Jen has done a great deal of research and contacted several professionals and academics regarding the sheeting project and is concerned, along with others, that the installation of the sheetpile will negatively impact the future health of the dune and beach system and may lead to other unintended consequences. Some of the concerns raised in the discussion included:
 - Experts have explained that the reason we had trouble finding research on the environmental impact of sheetpile revetments used this close to wave action is that the wave action and resultant scour action when the structure is reached by water equates to decimation of any flora or fauna on the dry sand and in the near shore zone on the seaward side of the structure; we spent some time on this area, as we also experienced similar decimation during Sandy
 - The "end effect," or the notch inland that develops at the end of a revetment or seawall when water reaches it
 - The use of toe rocks for safety/ structural integrity

- The normal overwash vs clapotis overwash & its effect on the landward environment
- What is the useful life of the sheeting and what happens to the dunes at the end of the sheeting's life, the coating / depth of coating.
- Timing of the project related to the beach re-nourishment USACE project.
- Long term responsibility for the maintenance of the sheeting and ongoing responsibility for sand both in front and behind the structure
- Safety and liability issues.
- Various theories on the staying power of beach sand in this area
- Leeching effects of sheetpile as it rusts and the coating as it degrades.

At the conclusion of the discussion of the sheeting project a majority of the group decided that the most valuable thing the Commission could accomplish would be to begin mapping out what could be done in the future to minimize the negative environmental impacts of the steel sheet pile system. The initial exploration included:

- Highlight the positive instead of negative related to the structure.
 - Work on developing strategies to reestablish life and promote the long term health of the dune system.
 - Encourage the Borough to re-establish the annual funding of the dune re-nourishment line item and repurpose the funds for dune maintenance.
- The next meeting will be March 11, 2014, 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, Chairman