

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 11, 2014

Meeting No: 2014-03

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

Members Absent:

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the February 2014 meeting were approved.
- Beth Nelson stated that there has been no progress on the lecture by Dr. Wootton to the Commission and Seaweeders. Beth will try and confirm with Dr. Wootton by next meeting.
- C. Bixby stated that he has not had a chance to speak with C. Nelson about the Borough Council and a resolution encouraging the NJDOT to revisit their planting schedule and landscaping plan for the Route 35 reconstruction. Courtney will hopefully have an update for the next meeting.
- C. Bixby mentioned that the 2014 Barnegat Bay Blitz will be held on April 25, 2014. Members of the Commission will participate in this year's event. The Commission may try to do something on Herring Island or at the end of Arnold Street, along Bergen Avenue, and the end of South Lagoon Lane.
- Jenny Buck led a recap of the previous month's discussion regarding the Steel Sheet Pile Dune Restoration Project. Courtney asked her to outline some of the additional concerns that were not in the prior month's discussion. The commission discussed a portion of the 16 item list from Jenny's already circulated CAFRA permitting comment letter draft. Part way through Jen suggested they take thoughts from the public, as her concerns had already been made available to the MEC and the public in writing. Some of the concerns previously raised included:
  - The environmental impact of sheetpile revetments
  - The "end effect," or the notch inland that develops at the end of a revetment or seawall when water reaches it
  - The lack 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.
  - 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.

Jen felt sand alone or a rock revetment instead would be better than sheet pile, and has doubts that the federal government will be able to fulfill their commitment to maintain the sand in front of the sheeting on a continuous basis. Jen stated that she has spent 9 months trying to improve the project through all the proper channels and feels no one has been willing to listen to the potential downsides of the sheet pile or talk about potential changes.

John Wesson stated that since so much time has elapsed from when the Project was first conceived until now, that the timing and need for the wall seems to be questionable in light of the beach replenishment project that is soon to begin.

Connie Pilling stated that, among other things, she is concerned that the sheet piles will interfere with or prevent the natural flow of sub-surface water that runs between the Bay and the ocean and could possibly lead to increased flooding from the Bay

Willie de Camp noted that he didn't think the materials we had received constituted the full normal CAFRA permit with all attachments. Jenny noted that Larry Plevier (Borough Engineer) or Irene Ryan (Borough Clerk) may have some additional information.

Peter Wright stated that he had a similar concern and intended to go to Borough Hall and ask to see the CAFRA permit through an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request. Peter felt that the Project needed some "tweaking" to address some of the concerns of the residents.

Peter Andruss stated that he is very concerned that the sheet piles will interfere with or prevent the natural flow of sub-surface water that runs between the Bay and the ocean and about the coating that is to be used on the sheeting.

Keavy Franzoni stated that the sheet pile project will ruin the beach and prevent the natural healing of the beach. The beach has not healed well since the '92 storm especially in the 1200 block of town and the sheet piles will just make matters worse. Ms. Franzoni also stated that if the sheet piles are installed as designed, getting heavy equipment on to the beach to bulldoze sand will be very difficult.

One resident, Mike Arnone spoke in favor of the Project. He has seen the results of a similar project in Monmouth County and the positive effects it has had.

At the end of the public discussion the Commission voted to submit a written response to the CAFRA permit. Beth Nelson stated that the response needed to be in-line with the Commission's Mission Statement. After some discussion it was decided that the letter would ask if modeling was performed on the effects of the sheet pile on the movement of sand on the beach and the environmental impacts

of the sheeting. C. Bixby will draft a letter that will be circulated to the Commission members for comment.

The next meeting will be April 8, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chairman