

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 12, 2013

Meeting No: 2013-03

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

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the February meeting were approved.
- Joanna Marino, a representative of AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program addressed the group. Joanna presented a brief summary of the program and indicated that the Ambassadors were looking to partner with Mantoloking during the upcoming Barnegat Bay Blitz in April. While all felt that this partnering would be a great idea, the timing was not right. With the current access restrictions imposed in town, the State sponsored clean-up of the bay, and upcoming demolition activities, it was determined that it is too soon to schedule this type of event. The next Blitz is scheduled for October 2013 and it was recommended that Joanna return to the Commission in September to discuss partnering for that event.
- The April newsletter was discussed. Drafts on the following topics were presented:
  - Soil Testing - Eileen
  - Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Disposal Guidelines - Eileen
  - Landscaping Recommendations - Beth

Beth Nelson mentioned that it is important that the Commission coordinate our information with other entities of the Borough such as the Office of Emergency Management, Planning Board, and Engineering so information and recommendations received by our residents do not conflict and lead to confusion. With that in mind, the topic of dune maintenance was removed from the newsletter. The other topics to be presented should not create a conflict with the other groups.

C. Bixby will discuss the issue of information coordination with the other entities and develop a procedure.

The draft topics for the newsletter will be compiled and after final review, the newsletter will be distributed to the residents with the next Borough mailing.

- Connie's report on animal control was reviewed and will be included in the newsletter.
- Eileen, Jen, and Beth attended a presentation on gardening and landscaping after Super Storm Sandy at St. Paul's Church in By Head and Jen attended a similar presentation sponsored by Ocean County. The content of the presentations was discussed and most of the recommendations and information will be included in the April newsletter.

- C. Bixby presented the final draft of the Commissions Mission Statement. After some discussion and final edits, the members voted unanimously to adopt the following mission statement:

*“The Mantoloking Environmental Commission seeks to improve the environmental quality of our land, bay, and ocean. Through education and outreach, the Commission encourages citizens to incorporate environmentally responsible practices into homes, gardens, and daily life. The Commission’s goal is to improve the health of the land and surrounding waters while reducing our potential to harm the environment.”*

- Jenny Buck provided an update on the Leeds’ laboratory water sampling and analysis of the bay. The Lab’s main target is bacterial testing to make sure the bay meets shellfish standards, which it currently does meet and has met for the majority of the time since Hurricane Sandy. The Bay continues to meet or exceed the 14 CFU/100ml of fecal coliform, the parameter used to for shellfish classification. The Leeds lab is currently doing weekly testing of many locations in the bay, among them the Point Pleasant canal, near the Mantoloking bridge, and halfway between the Mantoloking bridge and the Rt37 Bridge in Toms River. Generally, the lab is not specifically concentrating on algae’s but if something unusual is seen, the Leeds lab will also check the water under a microscope, to identify species and perform cell counts of the dominant species.
- Beth Nelson mentioned that landscaping and new garden installed last summer at the end of South Lagoon, The Patty Brant Garden, held up very well during Super Storm Sandy. All the native plants and landscaping survived and is beginning to rebound. The areas of the water front not re-landscaped are not returning. This garden is a great example of the resilience and benefits to using native plants and landscaping techniques.
- The group discussed the Commission’s plans for the next few months. The Commission will begin to develop plans to sponsor talks and presentations on storm recovery gardening / landscaping, green building techniques, and alternative energy. Joanna Marino mentioned that her organization would assist in arranging for speakers and mentioned that the Rutgers Cooperative Center and Sustainable New Jersey are two other good resources for presentations. Eileen suggested that we contact Professor Louise Wooton of Georgian Court University to arrange for a presentation on dune vegetation and planting techniques. The group felt this was a good idea.
- The next meeting will be held April 9, 2013 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chariman