

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 13, 2013

Meeting No: 2013-08

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

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the July meeting were approved.
- The group discussed the tour of the Ocean County Recycling Facility located off of New Hampshire Avenue in Lakewood, NJ. All that attended the tour found it to be very interesting and the information provided improved our knowledge of the disposal process for recyclables in Mantoloking. There were some conflicts with the information provided at the tour about what can recycled vs. the published information from the County. It was decided that the Commission would use the County information as the standards for recycling. Eileen recommended that we add a link to the Ocean County recycling page to the Commission's web page. C. Bixby will have this done.
- Chairman Bixby presented a recent article in the Ocean Star regarding an ordinance being considered by the Point Pleasant Borough Council regarding the control of invasive plant species. The ordnance would allow town officials to require residents to trim and / or remove certain invasive plant species (such as bamboo) if the plants intruded on to other private or public property. After some discussion the group decided that implementing such a program would be difficult and would not recommend a similar ordinance for the Borough.

One interesting bit of information was brought out by the discussion; it seems that poison ivy is good for the dunes. Native to our area, poison ivy's root system is effective in retaining sand and it helps keeps people off the dunes.

- Chairman Bixby mentioned that he and Beth Nelson have exchanged emails with a resident who lives on the North Lagoon regarding the continued growth and expansion of the phragmites on the south end of the North Lagoon, a.k.a The Little Beach. There is concern that if left unaddressed the phragmites will completely cover the sand of the little beach and eliminate any access to the water. Beth stated that it is hoped that sometime during the fall or winter of this year, the DWP will be able to get to the little beach and remove most of the phragmites and grade off the area.

Beth Nelson stated that the Seaweeders have applied for a grant to replant the South Lagoon side of Bergen Avenue. It was suggested that the Commission sponsor a clean-up event for each end of two lagoons. This was felt to be a good idea. C. Bixby will coordinate the event.

- Eileen McIntyre stated that the Commission should get more involved in the bay cleanup efforts sponsored by the NJDEP Barnegat Bay Blitz. Everyone agreed that this is an important program and the Commission will be more proactive during the 2014 events.
- Jenny Buck mentioned an article published in the New York Times recently on the Indian River in Florida. Studies have noted a huge drop off in marine life in the river that may be related to excessive nitrogen levels in the water and eutrophication or phyto plankton. These are issues facing the Bay and should be something to keep an eye on.
- Beth Nelson mentioned that maybe the Commission should publish recommendations for dune planting in our next newsletter. Although the work on the dunes continues, planting could still be done on the western slope of the dunes to help retain the sand and start to re-establish plant life along the dune system. Dr. Louise Wooton of Georgian Court University will be contacted for recommendations.
- Peter Chance updated the group on the purchase a decibel (noise) meter to monitor boat noise in the bay. In order to be effective, a person using the noise meter needs to attend a course on the proper use of the device. Chief Wright stated to Peter that the police department just doesn't have the time or personnel this year but will revisit the issue for the 2014 boating season.
- The next meeting will be held September 10, 2013, 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chariman