

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 12, 2013

Meeting No: 2013-11

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

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- Chairman Bixby stated that the Commission did not meet during the month of October
- The minutes of the September meeting were approved.
- A discussion was held on various clean-up and environmental education opportunities. Beth Nelson suggested that the group could take a trip / tour of the Forest Resource Education Center ([FREC](#)). FREC is located in Jackson Township and is operated by the NJDEP. In addition, Beth suggested that Cattus Island County Park is always in need of volunteers for clean-up activities. Beth to send out updates on Cattus Island clean-up events to Commission members. Connie Pilling mentioned that the Sandy Recovery Center located on Mantoloking Road in Brick sponsors clean-up events of the local wet lands and swamps.
- Beth Nelson stated that she attend a meeting of the Native Plant Society of NJ on November 2nd, 2013. There were various speakers including Dr. Louise Wootton discussing building and stabilizing dunes with vegetation and Jason Austin of RareFind Nursery speaking on restoring and revitalizing coastal landscapes after Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Austin reviewed the importance of installing plants native to salt marshes to help restore the barrier island's ability to act as a filter for runoff.
- Discussion was held on arranging an education event in the early spring and inviting Dr. Wootton and Mr. Austin to speak. The event will be open to all residents. The Bay Head Environmental Commission and Garden Club will be invited as well. C. Bixby and B. Nelson to organize the event.
- Connie Pilling mentioned that with all the dredging being done in the Bay, it is highly likely that clam beds and natural fish hatcheries have been disturbed or lost. All agreed that this is an important issue and should be brought to attention of the NJDEP. Beth Nelson to contact a representative of the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center and Jenny Buck will contact Dr. Mike Kennish of Rutgers.

- John Wesson continued a discussion from last meeting on the Pros and Cons regarding phragmites and soil erosion. Although non-native, the plants provide an effective means of erosion control however if left unchecked, will take over and crowd out native plant species. The members agreed that there is a place for them if controlled.
- B. Nelson mentioned that the Hinckley property was sold. The Commission should be keep an eye on the development plans for the property.
- Jenny stated that the last update from the NJDEP indicated that the water quality of the Bay is good.
- John Wesson thought that the Commission should make an effort to raise the town's awareness of the Commission and its activities. Don Ness (or his replacement) will be asked to make a statement at a council meeting and a statement will be sent to The Reporter.
- The next meeting will be held December 10th, 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, Chairman