

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 17, 2015

Meeting No: 2012-02

Members Present: Bixby, Buck, Daly, Pilling, McIntyre, Wesson, White, Witkowski

Members Absent:

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were approved.
- Eileen McIntyre provided an update on the upcoming dune planting presentation. The presentation will be jointly sponsored by the Mantoloking and the Bay Head Environmental Commissions and will take place on May 12, 2015 at the Mantoloking Yacht Club beginning at 6:30 pm. Dr. Wootton is working on a title for the presentation and has suggested a \$100 honorarium from each organization. The honorarium will used to fund to a Georgian Court University non-profit that donates landscaping and gardens to Eileen is making arrangements for a poster and C. Bixby will make an announcement at the next Borough Council meeting in March. The presentation will put on the Borough web site as well.
- The Earth Day litter pickup was discussed by the group. The litter pick-up or patrols will take place on April 25, 2015 (Earth Day is April 22, 2015). C. Bixby to announce at the next Borough Council meeting and will ask for volunteers to assist with the litter pickup. Connie Pilling suggested reaching out to the Visitation Relief Center on Mantoloking Road for volunteers.
- C. Bixby stated that the rough draft of the spring newsletter will be distributed for review before the next meeting.
- Jen Buck stated that there are some homeowners that could use a hand in cleaning up their yards and property. After some discussion it was decided that it would be better if this effort was undertaken by private citizens rather than an official body of the Borough.
- There was a discussion on the benefits of putting discarded Christmas trees on the dunes for sand retention. While this practice is employed in some neighboring communities, some geomorphologists that suggested that the practice is not beneficial to the dune system.
- Connie Pilling stated that the Brick Township Green Fair will take place April 28, 2015. The Green Fair an Earth Day educational event with exhibits, vendors, etc.

- John Wesson stated that he decided not to pursue the grass vs. stone along Rt. 35 with the NJDOT. After discussions with D. Popoca it appears that the NJDOT plans have been finalized and it would be very difficult to have them changed.
- Sandy Witkowski stated that the Seaweeders are waiting until spring to begin the re-planting of the Patty Brand garden along Bergen Avenue. Sandy also stated that the Seaweeders would like to resurrect the planter boxes that were downtown and are now in the DPW parking lot, however the boxes seems to be in pretty bad shape and may not be salvageable.
- Jenny Buck stated that she has discussed the disposition of the core samples from the sheet pile project with the Town historian and it was agreed that the samples would be turned over to the Rutgers/New Jersey Geological and Water Survey Core Repository. In return the professors of the repository have agreed to speak to the Mantoloking Historical Society and Environmental Commission (and others) regarding the results of their core analysis and the geological history of the barrier island.
- Jen mentioned that Save Barnegat Bay intends to resurrect a research project she started that was studying the efficacy of non-chemical weed killers. This is a project that was on and off between the years of 2005 – 2010. Jen will be working with Save Barnegat Bay interns reviewing the past results of the project, and they will attempt new solutions. One of the promising techniques specifically for Mantoloking is to use natural dried sea-salt (food quality) on pea gravel to control weed growth. The use of sea-salt is a low cost, low effort, and potentially low environmental impact method and Jen is looking for feedback from soil experts regarding the method. This would ONLY be recommended on the barrier island, where salt water over-wash is a natural process. It would be considered to “kill” the soil on the mainland where this is not a natural process – the mainland will need another solution.
- John Wesson mentioned that he has heard anecdotally that the fox population on the island is on the rise in that a fisherman mentioned that he has seen a pack of foxes while fishing on the beach in Mantoloking.
- The next meeting will be March 10, 2015, 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chairman