

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 10, 2015

Meeting No: 2015-03

Members Present: Bixby, Buck, Wesson, White, Witkowski

Members Absent: Daly, Pilling, McIntyre

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the February 2015 meeting were approved.
- The Earth Day litter pickup was discussed by the group. The litter pick-up or patrols will take place on April 25, 2015 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. C. Bixby will make an announcement at the next Borough Council meeting and will ask for volunteers to assist with the litter pickup. Lance White will contact the Ocean Star. Jen suggested that one or two individual's survey the Borough one or two days before the clean up to identify the problem areas. John Wesson to assist Jen with this. C. Bixby will ask the DPW about supplying trash bags and picking up the trash once collected. John Wesson will provide sturdy gloves to volunteers who do not bring their own gloves. Lance suggested that after the clean-up we meet back at the sailing center for beer and pizza. All felt that this was a good idea.
- C. Bixby stated that the upcoming dune planting presentation was proceeding well. Eileen has been doing a great job marshalling all the people and getting the word out. Eileen is making arrangements for a poster and C. Bixby will make an announcement at the next Borough Council meeting. The presentation will be put on the Borough web site as well.
- C. Bixby stated that the rough draft of the spring newsletter was distributed for comments.
- Sandy Witkowski indicated that the Seaweeders are planning to purchase new planters to be used in and around the new borough hall. The old flower boxes are not salvageable.
- John Wesson mentioned that a beaver carcass washed up on southern most bayside beach recently.
- Jen reported that the County Hazardous Waste drop-off dates are to be made public this month instead of next, they will be published March 18, 2015.
- Jen noted a researcher at Northwestern (that had expressed interest in the same project immediately after Sandy) might still be interested in the study of the bottom sediment in Barnegat Bay for a few heavy metal contaminants. There would be no cost to the Borough other than assisting in placing a small amount of equipment. This could take place within or outside the auspices of the Commission.

- Jen repeated a side-note from past years regarding algae blooms as we move into the spring. Often only algae that is “known to exist” is algae that is “tested for,” i.e. it may not be identified unless you get it under a microscope and image it. If we see an algae bloom this spring, it may still be possible to send samples to entities that have been willing in the past to get it under a microscope. Local bay blooms immediately after Sandy were known never to have been identified in part because they were not among the list “tested for.”
- Jen expects to have a paragraph back from a doctor for review on asthma on March 16, 2015 to be discussed by Commission regarding appropriateness after post-disaster cleanup for the newsletter.
- Jen reported that the Borough had expressed interest in contacting researchers involved in studying the flooding in Barnegat Bay early last fall. Contact information was passed along with proposed dates to meet, but due to the large workload at the time, Borough officials were unable to meet with the researchers. There are at least two entities already known to be doing significant research on flooding in Barnegat Bay, Stevens Institute and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Neil Ganju a respected researcher from WHOI and one of the people involved in this larger area has been invited down to be the keynote speaker at the Barnegat Bay Partnership Science Symposium on May 27, 2015. He has also expressed willingness to speak (format to be determined) at the north end of the bay. The Commission is among the entities that could be the potential host for that event. Jen noted the date for the BBP Science Symposium has not been released yet, but J Vasslides says it will be soon and it may be of interest to some Commission members and residents.
- Jen reported Ken Miller, Jim Browning, and Ben Horton, professors involved in the Rutgers Core Repositories, are all willing to speak locally on cores and the geological/ historical information derived from them. Some may be candidates for Commission hosting, some may be optimal hosted via other venues. This will be discussed further at a later date.
- Jen noted that the MEC as an environmental commission should have on record some form of discussion of the environmental implications of the planned sand replenishment. Some members of the Commission expressed concern for such a topic to be discussed for fear that the discussion could be perceived as an objection to the project. C. Bixby stated that the Commission should have an objective discussion regarding the environmental impacts of the project. The Commission can certainly discuss the facts without taking a position for or against the replenishment project. This subject will be discussed further. Jen noted the work of a couple of researchers in CA that she has approached previously who have specialized in reintroducing specific native littoral zone fauna to areas where events like this wipe that fauna out.
- Jen noted that residents have expressed concern over a particularly unpleasant looking dump truck load(s) presumably from Agate that was used to bolster the beach in the Lyman area.
- The next meeting will be April 14, 2015, 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, Chairman