

MANTOLOKING ENVIROINMENTAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2014

Meeting No: 2014-05

Members Present: Bixby, Buck, Nelson, Pilling, Wesson

Members Absent: Chance, McIntyre

- Chairman Bixby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- The minutes of the April 2014 meeting were approved.
- The dune planting lecture is still tentatively scheduled for early summer (June / July) and Beth will continue her efforts to arrange a date with Dr. Wootton although to date, Beth's efforts have been met with limited success.
- C. Bixby updated the group on the Barnegat Bay Blitz. The clean-up event was held Friday, April 25, 2014. Connie and Courtney assisted five representatives of the NJDEP Green Acres program with the clean-up. Over twelve bags of trash, lots of wood and debris, and two oyster cages were cleaned from the little beaches along Bergen Avenue, the rock revetment at the end of South Lagoon Ln., and the rock revetment at the end of Arnold St.
- The CAFRA permit application for three houses on Barnegat Ln. was discussed. Based on email communications between the membership since the April meeting, it was the consensus of the Commission to not provide any comments on the CAFRA permit application although all felt that this work should have been completed *after* the permit application had been approved and not before as was the case.
- The Commission newsletter will address dune and bay side plants and planting techniques. Cleaning up after your pets and proper lawn fertilizing will also be included. C. Bixby will draft the 1st cut of the newsletter and Beth will assist.
- Ms. Nelson stated that Save Barnegat Bay (SBB) along with others is trying to petition the NJDOT to install rain gardens at the storm water inlets along the rebuilt Rt. 35. At the kickoff meeting for the Barnegat Bay Blitz, Beth spoke with Cindy Randazzo, Director of the NJDEP Office of Local Government Assistance and Ms. Randazzo indicated that there were funds available for such projects. SBB has experts/professionals willing to assist with this project and the Seaweeder's garden club has expressed interest in helping. After some discussion, Eileen McIntyre was named to be the Commissions liaison for this topic.

- The meeting was then opened to comments from the public.
 - Don Ness produced a copy of a letter that he received in the mail from an organization named the Mantoloking Improvement Association (MIA) and asked if the Mantoloking Environmental Commission was involved with the MIA. Chairman Bixby asked for a little clarification and background on the letter and the organization since he had never seen the letter or heard of the MIA before. Members explained that the MIA is an organization that has been put together by some of the residents of Mantoloking. The MIA is in the process of trying to obtain non-profit 501c3 certification in the hopes of raising monies to fund the installation of a rock revetment along the ocean front of Mantoloking vs. the State funded steel sheet pile project.

Mr Ness repeated his question asking if the Commission or any of its members were involved with the MIA. Chairman Bixby stated for the record that the Mantoloking Environmental Commission is not affiliated with or professional involved with the Mantoloking Improvement Association. As to individual members of the Commission being involved with the MIA, Mr. Bixby stated that as residents of the Borough of Mantoloking, Commission members are free to join or support any legal organization they wish, but speaking for himself, Mr. Bixby stated he is not associated with the MIA. Beth Nelson and John Wesson stated that they were not involved with the MIA and Ms. Pilling stated that she is not officially involved with the MIA.

- Ms. Buck arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Ness asked if the Commission supported or opposed the Steel Sheet Pile Dune Restoration Project. Beth Nelson stated that the Commission, in its response to the CAFRA permit application for the project, raised two concerns regarding the project; 1) the natural movement of sand on the eastern (ocean) side of the steel sheet piles, and 2) the environmental impact of the proposed coating for the top portion of the sheet piles. In addition, the response indicated when covered with sand the steel sheet piles will perform as designed. Mr. Ness stated that the Commission should reinforce its position on the steel sheet pile project. Chairman Bixby stated that the purpose of the MEC is to advise and educate the residents of the Borough on sound ecological practices and that the Commission was not in the business of flood protection. The position of the MEC was clearly stated in the CAFRA permit application response letter, which was copied to Mayor and Council, and no further comment is necessary.

- Stan Witkowski stated that members of the MIA had met with the Commissioner of the NJDEP, Bob Martin and asked that the Steel Sheet Pile Dune Restoration Project be delayed to allow the MIA time to finance and install the rock revetment vs. the steel sheet piles. Mr. Witkowski mentioned that if the installed cost of the rock revetment was equally divided among all the property owners in town the cost would be an estimated \$37,000/ household. Stan felt the likelihood of the MIA raising this kind of funding was remote. Stan went on to say the Dr. Farrell, the Borough's dune expert has indicated that the current condition of the dune system in town would protect the Borough from a 4 year storm only and to delay the steel sheet pile project would delay the beach replenishment project, a project that is critical to the survival of the Borough as protection for future storms.

Stan asked if the members of the commission had read Councilman Chris Nelson's response to a recent article in the Star Ledger regarding the steel sheet pile project. Stan thought the response was heartfelt, thoughtful, and well written. Commission members acknowledged that they had read Mr. Nelson's response and that a copy of the letter was posted on the Borough's web site.

- The next meeting will be June 10, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Courtney Bixby, Chairman