



February 13, 2018

Meeting No: 2018-02

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

MEC Member	Present?
Claudia, Larsen, Chairwoman	Yes
Denise Boughton, Planning Board Liaison	Yes
Lynn O'Mealia, Borough Council Liaison	Yes
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Connie Pilling	Yes
John Wesson	No
E. Laurence White, Borough Council President	No

Others present: Edwin C. O'Malley, Caitlyn Bahrenburg, Ocean Star Reporter

The meeting was called to order at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center at 4:30 PM.

Old Business:

1. The January 2018 meeting minutes were approved as circulated by the Chairwoman via email on January 31, 2018.
2. Jan O'Malley's offer to create the meeting minutes was accepted.
3. The Mantoloking Environmental Commission email address has been re-established and is environmental@mantoloking.org.
4. The Borough of Mantoloking has provided all MEC members an Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) membership. Each MEC member will receive ANJEC emails and newsletters and is entitled to attend ANJEC workshops for free.

New Business:

1. There was a discussion on opposition to the proposed Off-Shore Oil and Gas Drilling Program and a review of the MEC statement to be released to the community to encourage all to provide comments on the Bureau of Energy Management web site. Lynn O'Mealia made a motion and Jan O'Malley seconded the motion to approve the memo as distributed (see Appendix A).

Claudia created a poster that we hope can be posted in the Mantoloking Post Office, Police and Fire Departments, and the Borough Hall on Drum Point Rd, as well as being displayed at the Borough Council meeting on February 20, 2018. The MEC agreed to distribute this through the Blogtrotr, Mantoloking Reporter, Mantoloking Yacht Club Newsletter, and Bay Head and Mantoloking Gazette. Lynn O'Mealia directed Edwin



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O'Malley to post the letter to the Mantoloking Borough web site and via the Blogtrottr. Denise Boughton agreed to send the poster and the letter via the Mantoloking Reporter ASAP. (Note: all of this was accomplished.)

2. MEC then reviewed the draft goals proposed in the January 2018 meeting. The intent is for each leader of a goal to enlist other members to participate and seek outside assistance from municipal employees and other committees and organizations that might share a common goal. The names listed after each goal volunteered to lead that effort.
 - a. Opposition to Proposed Off Shore Oil Drilling (Claudia Larsen: Complete)
 - b. Impact of Beach Replenishment (Claudia Larsen and Connie Pilling)

Claudia mentioned a number of thoughts with respect to this effort.

- How will more people, more garbage (water bottles, snack bags, diapers, etc.) impact the environment?
 - There are 14 beach access points. There may be a need for signage "keep off dunes" and "Pack it in, Pack it out" messages from environmental point of view.
 - Grooming beach for garbage that washes up on the beach
 - Bob Mainberger from Mott McDonald Engineering is a consultant for the Borough. We can meet with him and our own DPW.
 - Some of this may be taken care of by the Borough. We can consider filling any gaps.
- c. Environmental Resource Inventory (Jan O'Malley)

ANJEC states in their Environmental Commissioners Handbook that this is one of the most important jobs of the EC. This effort comprises:

- The report will include an inventory of all open spaces, including public and private space.
 - The report will include all the environmental features and characteristics of Mantoloking
 - The report will be used by the Planning Board, open space committees, zoning and land use planning.
 - The report serves as the foundation for resource protection ordinances and resource-based land use planning.
 - Assisting in creating environmentally sound plans for parks, community garden, compost site, and entries to the bay for kayakers, and paddle boarders.
 - Coordinating MEC recommendations for open space with members of the Planning Board.
- d. Protection and Health of Barnegat Bay and the Ocean

The health and well-being of the Bay and Ocean are critical to our community. Claudia offered the following thoughts:

- We can partner with Save Barnegat Bay, Clean Ocean Action, Barnegat Bay Partnership, and Pinelands Preservation Alliance to preserve the bay and the undeveloped open spaces.
- Conservation of fresh water



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- Become “Water Guardians” to protect this limited resource. Drought, Contamination, and Salt water intrusion, and runoff from nitrogen fertilizers.

Upon suggestion by Lynn O’Mealia, it was decided to separate protection of the Bay and Ocean into a separate goal for each. Claudia will lead the Ocean goal. Connie will lead the Bay goal.

e. Dying Black Pines (John Wesson)

The Black Pines once considered the perfect tree, with no known diseases or insect infestations, are dying. Superstorm Sandy weakened the more mature trees and the Southern Pine Beetle has infested some. Healthy looking trees can die in a matter of weeks. Dead trees are unsightly, and may become unstable and thus a potential safety hazard.

Jan O’Malley asked to try to create a constructive package, potentially involving grants, to use to approach people on this topic.

f. Fight Against Pollution

This goal includes:

- Investigating fertilizers used on lawns that are affecting the health of dogs (and humans). Find better options.
- Educating the community on best practices to keep our resources safe and clean.
- Recommending safe and environmentally sound gardening practices.

It was decided to combine this topic under the Protect the Bay goal.

g. Communication (Denise Boughton)

Items to be considered under this goal include:

- Being accessible to the community to share our knowledge, announce specific topics for upcoming meetings, and be more visible.
- Changing the “tip of the month” to a newsletter that provides more information of our goals and achievements. Publish once in the first quarter, twice in the second and third quarters, and once in the fourth quarter. This newsletter is intended to reinforce our role and influence better environmental practices within the community. Claudia Larsen agreed to be newsletter editor.
- Sending agenda for each meeting to all MEC members one week in advance of meeting. Any member can submit requests for topics to be discussed (this is a role of the Chairwoman).
- Establishing a space in the new Borough Hall to post information
- Partnering with Borough employees and committee chairs to gain and share information and to help.
- Opening a dialogue with Bay Head Environmental Commission and other neighboring commissions to share information and to learn best practices.
- Creating a calendar of meeting dates of ANJEC and other organization seminars for the MEC members.



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- Having a speaker's bureau.
 - Adding a Facebook page.
- h. Impact of Rt. 35 storm water management system

Jan agreed engage Lance White and Larry Plevier from a Borough standpoint as well as Graceanne Taylor from Save Barnegat Bay to get more background. This topic may fall under the protection of Bay goal.

It is anticipated that each lead will provide an update to the other MEC members during the upcoming meetings.

3. Edwin O'Malley mentioned the Barnegat Bay Blitz, a DEP sponsored cleanup for which DEP employees have a day off to assist. He recommended that MEC should pursue having an event this year.
4. The NJ Recycle App was mentioned, but requires further research.
5. MEC members reviewed the current mission statement that was adopted in March 2013:

"The Mantoloking Environmental Commission seeks to improve the environmental quality of our land, bay, and ocean. Through education and outreach, the Commission encourages citizens to incorporate environmentally responsible practices into homes, gardens, and daily life. The Commission's goal is to improve the health of the land and the surrounding waters while reducing the potential to harm the environment."

The current MEC members agreed that it should be further researched and a revised draft will be considered when ready.

6. Claudia mentioned that there are some upcoming meetings of interest:
 - ANJEC workshop on Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Tatum Park, Holland Activity Center (Monmouth County), 206 Holland Road, Middletown, NJ

If MEC members would like to attend, please email ANJEC with the date of training, name and affiliation, or call 973 539-7547. Go to ANJEC for the meeting agenda.

- 21st Annual Barnegat Bay Watershed Environmental Educators Roundtable

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 3:00 pm to 7:45 PM. Cost is \$30.

Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, Lighthouse Resource Center
Camp Lighthouse Road (entrance is at the corner of 7th St and N Navajo Drive)
Waretown, NJ 08758

This year's theme is "Back to Our Roots". Workshops will reconnect you to the historical, cultural, and natural resources that make Barnegat Bay a unique and ecologically

For more information on this and other workshops, email education@soildistrict.org or look at the Ocean County Soil Conservation District web site ([Ocean County Soil Conservation District](#)).



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Closing Remarks:

- Jan noted that she may not be able to attend the March 13 meeting and take minutes. Denise noted that she will be away.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.
- The next meeting will be held at the Mantoloking Yacht Club Sailing Center at 4:30 PM on March 13, 2018. As always, citizens are welcome.



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Appendix A MEC Memo Opposing Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

URGENT: Notification from the Mantoloking Environmental Commission

Subject: Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

If you live, or have visited Mantoloking, anywhere on the Jersey Shore, or anywhere along the US Atlantic coast and its estuaries, this is an important issue that we all need to take action on.

On January 4th, Ryan Zinke, the Secretary of Interior announced the next phase of President Trump's new 5 year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The plan includes **opening the entire Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Florida for drilling including all of the Jersey Shore and New York's South Shore to come within 3 miles of our beaches.**

If this drilling is allowed there is a risk that it could greatly impact our environment, our community, tourism, and the economy of our town, the state of New Jersey, and every other town and coastal state from Maine to Florida.

It is important to raise our voices to communicate our opposition to this irresponsible action that can destroy our coastal environment and our economy. This is an important environmental issue that has bi-partisan opposition. Former Governor Christy, Governors Murphy and Cuomo signed a resolution in opposition. Time is critical since all public comment on this issue must be submitted by March 9th.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is accepting online comments. Go to www.regulations.gov. In the center of the page is a blue box titled Search. Enter ID=BOEM-2017-0074-0001. Hit search. On the right side of the next page there is a blue box titled "Comment Now". Click and enter your comments. Please note the comment checklist to insure your comments are most effective. Some points to consider include:

- With the impact of climate change threatening, our Government should be investing in renewable energy sources (wind, solar, hydro) rather than non-renewable fossil fuels.
- Oil and gas drilling increases the probability of disasters including oil leaks, explosions, and consequent negative environmental impact as well as loss of life, especially during hurricanes and strong nor'easters.
- Oil and gas drilling will have a negative impact on our real estate values due to the risk of oil leaks, increased noise and light pollution, and the loss of clear ocean views.
- Oil and gas drilling have the potential to impact our natural resources including aquatic creatures, birds, and the quality of the water and air.

We hope everyone in your family and everyone who has ever visited your house at the Shore writes a comment!! It's so important, no matter your age.

There is going to be one BOEM Citizen Hearing & Public Meeting in the state of New Jersey on February 14th 3 – 7 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 US-130, Hamilton Township, NJ 08690. We will be organizing car pools. Contact Claudia Larsen at environmental@mantoloking.org.

For more information, go to CleanOceanAction.org. There you can find the [Plan Overview](#), a [Fact Sheet](#) and a [Sample Comment Template](#).

We need your help in opposing the proposed Off Shore Oil and Gas Drilling. Please take action to prevent this from happening. Make your voice count!