



MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 2018 Q2 Newsletter

The MEC has been busy as we finally welcome summer. Time has been spent getting ready for the summer season and welcoming residents back to Mantoloking. While we have goals to focus on and a clear path to achieve them, there is always something that suddenly moves to the forefront to dominate our actions. How we confront this issue will be reflected in the future.

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastics in all forms; water and juice bottles, straws, bottle caps, food containers, snack bags, plastic bags, Styrofoam and balloons are everywhere they should not be.

Plastics are in the waterways and the ocean. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an 80,000 ton island of debris, twice the size of Texas. There are 5 such islands in oceans throughout the world. Forty percent of plastic products are single use items and then discarded. Think about how many plastic bags and water bottles we all use every day and then throw away.

Plastics are so prevalent in the ocean that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

We have the power to change this outcome and stop plastic pollution. Simple solutions and changing habits will reverse this outcome.

1. Stop buying and using water bottles. Buy and use an aluminum refillable bottle.
2. Refuse plastic bags, bring a cloth or paper bag instead for the small purchases.
3. Bring reusable grocery bags to the store (many made from soda bottles)
4. Use paper straws instead of plastic.
5. Reuse food containers to store your leftovers instead of using plastic film.

Plastic has its place in the world but we can reduce the one use plastics bags and bottles. Our misuse of plastics is our problem to solve. China has stopped accepting recycled plastics from the USA. We are surrounded by water and see plastic everywhere. Please help protect our waterways and our way of life. Be responsible and consider how you can make a few changes to reverse the plastic pollution.

We applaud the Breckenridge family for “Recycle USA” in the Fourth of July Parade. It was a timely message that won the Grand Quack Award. Congratulations!



MEC Announcement

Doreen Duggan has been appointed by Mayor Nebel. Doreen will be a liaison with the MEC and the Mantoloking Yacht Club. We have been working closely with Rear Commodore Melissa Evans, the Board of Governors, the employees, and the club members to be more environmentally aware. In one conversation, the plastic straws were replaced with wood stirrers. Small steps with big results.

MEC GOALS

The Protection of the Ocean, Bay, and Beaches

In May and early June, our beaches were littered with plastic water and juice bottles, soda cans, straws, balloons, shoes and tree branches. It looked like the old days when garbage was dumped in the ocean.

Heavy rains and storm water runoff was the cause. With developed areas, non-porous driveways, parking lots etc., the rainwater doesn't get absorbed into the ground, instead the rain water flows into our rivers, bays, and ocean. It carries all sorts of refuse that eventually ends up on the beach. We picked up lots of plastics and all those "happy graduation" balloons.

In April, we attended a lecture by Dr. Louise Wootton, of the department of Biology, Georgian Court University on low impact design strategies for storm water management. More native plants, less hard surfaces, and rain barrels to catch that valuable resource to water your plants.

In May, Denise Boughton and Scott Hulse together created the environmental signs on the trash receptacles at each beach access point "Leave nothing but your footprints".

On June 8th, we participated with the NJDEP's Allison McLeod and NJDEP employees and Mantoloking residents in the Barnegat Bay Blitz. There were 22 volunteers that cleaned the access points to the bay at Albertson, Princeton, Arnold, Bergen N and S and Lagoon. We also did a beach sweep from Albertson to well north of Downer. This was the largest beach sweep in Mantoloking. Thanks to the 7 residents from Mantoloking who participated!

The Protection of the Land

The report on the dying black pines is almost completed. It will include photographs of various properties that need to be addressed and then passed to Borough officials for resolution. We thank all the property owners that have removed the dead pines from their properties.

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) Report Status

This report when completed will be an invaluable tool for Mantoloking. It will catalogue all open spaces within the Borough; both public and private. It will include surveys, soil composition, plant materials, and wildlife. It will be a great resource for the Planning Board in future revisions of the the master plan. It is a herculean task to undertake and it has been estimated to take two years to complete. Jan O'Malley has taken on this challenge for which we are grateful and inspired. Jan is doing her research, seeking advice from other municipalities, and seeking interns to help her.

RECYCLE COACH APP

New Jersey is the first state to offer Recycle Coach to all residents free of charge. NJDEP purchased this online technology to centralize recycling information for municipalities and

counties in a single platform. It will educate our residents, save time and money, and provide information needed to recycle smarter. The app includes schedules of garbage and recycle collection. It answers questions on what is recyclable, offers suggestion on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

We launched this app to all residents on June 13th. Please sign up for this free app that provides you with all the information needed to recycle. The Recycle Coach app is available on the App Store, and there is a link on the Mantoloking Environmental Commission web page or the Mantoloking.org website.

2018 Measurable Policy Contributions

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| Approved 2/13/18 | Statement from the MEC in Opposition of Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program |
| Passed 2/13/18 | Resolution from the Council in Opposition of Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program |
| Attended 3/24/18 | ANJEC workshop: “Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions”. Attended by Claudia Larsen and Jan O’Malley |
| Attended 4/12/18 | Claudia Larsen attended Lecture by Dr. Louise Wootton, of the Department of Biology, Georgian Court University on Low Impact Design Strategies for storm water management. |
| Completed 5/20/18 | Environmental Sign designed by Denise Boughton and implemented by Scott Hulse. “Leave nothing but your footprints”. The signs were attached to the trash and recycle containers at all beach access points. |
| Co-organized 6/8/18 | With the NJDEP’s Allison McLeod and Claudia Larsen, MEC, MDPW, the Barnegat Bay Blitz had 22 volunteers that cleaned the bay access points at Albertson, Princeton, Arnold, Bergen N and S, and Lagoon. We did a beach sweep from Albertson to north of Downer. This was the largest turnout in the 3 years we participated. |
| Announced 6/13/18 | Launched Recycle Coach App for all Mantoloking residents to use to recycle better, smarter. |

We invite everyone to come to our meetings and see what we do. We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30 pm at the Mantoloking Yacht Club.