



May 13, 2019

Meeting Notes No: 2019-05

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

MEC Member	Present?
Claudia, Larsen, Chairwoman	Yes
Brad Batcha (Borough Council Liaison)	Yes
Denise Boughton (Planning Board Liaison)	Yes
Doreen Duggan (MYC representative)	No
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Connie Pilling	Yes
Barbara Turro	No
John Wesson	Yes

The meeting was called to order at the Mantoloking Borough Hall at 5:33 PM. Mayor Lance White and Edwin C. O'Malley joined the meeting.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes

- Connie made a motion to approve the April 2019 meeting minutes as distributed via email on April 8 2019. Brad seconded. All voted to approve.

NJ Environmental News

- Governor Murphy signed a bill reaffirming access to public access to beaches and waterways to all. Brad commented that this bill impinges on private property owners' rights and would be an unconstitutional taking of private property. The NJ State Bar Association voted to disapprove the bill.
- NJ DEP gave out \$10 million in grants for Barnegat Bay Projects to improve water quality on Barnegat Bay.

The Protection and Health of the Land

Recap of Free Seedlings Program

- MEC handed out Eastern Red Cedar and Norway Spruce to 45 different people.
- Most trees were not acceptable for barrier island use. There were over 500 oak trees as well as dogwoods that need a taller tree to protect them, and are not salt tolerant. These were returned as unsuitable.
- There were no left-over trees that could be used to plant at street ends and beach access points.
- The MEC thanked Claudia for all of her efforts.

Recycling Update

- Claudia handed out the New Single Stream Flyer and letter for mailing that was drafted by the Mantoloking Environmental Committee.
- Claudia received some comments from MEC members that she will address prior to the Borough sending out.

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)



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- Jan emailed an updated draft to the MEC on May 13 and requested comments. This update included some input from Claudia on Vegetation then and now.
- Claudia asked Mayor White to check whether there could be a budget line item for the MEC or how the MEC can get necessary engineering support. The rough estimate is \$6,000 that could be spread across two fiscal years.

The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay

- We discussed the possibility of landscaping at the end of Princeton and potentially a kayak launching site. Jan suggested adding fences or sidewalks to delineate the street end.
- Connie suggested adding more soil in the rocks at the foot of Downer. She has successfully grown mallows there.
- No decisions were made.
- Claudia noted that the beach access at Herbert St sits on the edge of the property line of the owners to the north and south. Therefore, it cannot be landscaped.

More Action on the Dead Black Pines

- John spoke with Jessica Franzini, Deputy Director of Government and Community relations at the NJDOT. After providing a Google map that highlights the relevant properties along Rt. 35 together with photos, she will send staff out to investigate. Brad asked if this needed to be worked through the Borough Engineer, Larry Plevier. John agreed to copy him.

Communication:

- The MEC has been approved by the Borough Clerk to have a Facebook as long as it is informational only and the MEC does not respond to comments. Everyone agreed to this policy.
- Denise agreed to set up the account using the MEC email address. (environmental@mantoloking.org) Lance pointed out that Kelly Burdge has been trained and might be able to help.

New Business:

Barnegat Bay Blitz

- It is hosted by the Barnegat Bay Estuary Service and will occur on Friday, June 7 @ 10:00 A.M. It usually last two hours. The intent is to clean up the ocean and bay street end beaches. The Borough will provide bags and gloves.
- The MEC will put out an announcement to solicit volunteers. Edwin will post it on the Borough web site.

Barnegat Bay Marina (BBM) Variance Requests

Claudia summarized the BBM application to the Brick Planning Board and questions as follows:



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- Two variances are being requested: one for height and the other for use as a banquet hall.
- Building is proposed to be 2x the height allowed seeking variance to allow a 78' four story building
- The application includes dock and dine, restaurant, and a banquet floor for events and weddings. They plan 547 parking spaces.
- BBM purchased a liquor license for \$611,000.
- The current owners are Barnegat Bayside Services. Tony Ferreira is one owner.
- Light, noise, and water pollution all will be affected. Traffic will be a nightmare on a two-lane road.
- Who will patrol the bay?
- Influencers that can help: Save Barnegat Bay, Pineland Preservation, NJ DEP, BBYRA, NJ DOT, Reclam the Bay and NJ Sierra Club

The MEC discussed the following:

- We need a coordinated effort to respond to the assault on the environment.
- Brad pointed out that the applicant is a potential purchaser and variance approval is a condition of the purchase.
- Lance commented on the Borough's efforts. It is planning to send out a survey tomorrow (May 14). The intent of the survey is to make people aware of the variance requests. Also, Mayor White is reluctant to hire an attorney if the majority of Mantoloking residents don't agree. There are some residents who want to contribute to the town to support opposition. Lance had spoke to Chris D'Alessandro, Mantoloking Yacht Club (MYC) Commodore. Chris was unsure of the best approach. Claudia mentioned that some MYC Board members had expressed concern about the application.
- There is a safety issue related to the dock and dine aspect of the proposal involving a lot of boat traffic combined with alcohol consumption.
- Edwin pointed out that the Fish and Wildlife Service owns property within 200 feet and might be a good ally.
- Lance thought that this should be a multi-pronged approach, but suggested that MEC wait to act until the results of the survey are known, although it may continue to make a spreadsheet of organizations to engage.
- The MEC will proceed with making a master list of organizations that would offer support for environmental concerns in opposition to the scale of this project. Claudia offered to start the master list.
- Brad pointed out that despite potential survey results, it is the Borough Council that has the authority to make the decision as to whether to oppose the application.
- Edwin suggested involving the Ocean County Sheriff for safety patrol as they want to improve their presence on the Bay.
- Jan proposed making a "safe/slow speed/no wake zone" from north of Herring Island along its west side, to south of Swan Point to help control speed of boats. MEC approved working on this project. Jan will determine next steps.

Important Upcoming Environmental Events



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- ANJEC Meeting on “Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions”. The program includes hands on training, networking and breakout sessions and runs from 0900 am to 1:30 pm. The final session is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 in Ridgefield.
- Barnegat Bay Blitz will occur on Friday, June 7 @ 10:00 AM.

Claudia announced that she is resigning from the MEC due to family health issues. Lance noted that Claudia has created a new template as MEC chair and thanked her for all of her efforts.

Jan moved a motion to close the meeting. Claudia seconded; all were in favor. The meeting ended at 6:45 PM.

2019 Measurable Policy Contributions

Accomplishments for 2019 are as follows.

Action/Date	Accomplishment
March 12	Claudia attended the Seaweeders' presentation on “Environmental Challenges”
March 20	Barbara attended the Save Barnegat Bay Retreat, Island Beach State Park. Topics included Helping People Understand What they are Experiencing, Visual Storytelling, Bringing Oysters back to Barnegat Bay, Drones, Brainstorming for New Exhibits
April 27	Claudia handed out tree seedling to residents.
April 10	Jan attended the lecture “Landscaping in a Shore Community” in Point Pleasant Beach.