



July 8, 2019

Meeting Minutes No: 2019-07

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

MEC Member	Present?
Jan O'Malley, Chair	Yes
Brad Batcha (Borough Council Liaison)	Yes
Denise Boughton (Planning Board Liaison)	No
Beth Nelson	Yes
Connie Pilling	No
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	No

The meeting was called to order at the Mantoloking Borough Hall at 5:40 PM. Initially there was no quorum, but when Brad joined, we were able to proceed. Barbara Betz, a resident, also joined the meeting.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes

- Beth made a motion to approve the June 2019 meeting minutes as distributed via email on June 11, 2019. Barbara seconded. All voted to approve. Jan will ask Edwin to post the minutes on the Borough web site. There were no volunteers to take over meeting minute duties, so Jan will continue to draft meeting minutes.

Membership Update

- Due to Claudia Larson's resignation, the Borough Council approved resolutions on June 18th to appoint Jan O'Malley as MEC chair and Beth Nelson to replace Claudia.
- **Collaboration with other Environmental Commissions (EC)**
 - Jan followed up with Keith Rella, the Brick EC secretary. He still plans to share their ERI.
 - The Point Borough EC chair, Chris Constantino, responded via email and provided a link to their Facebook site as well as copying other members of his EC.
 - There has been no response from the Point Beach EC yet.
 - Lavallette does not appear to have an Environmental Commission. However, they do have an Environmental Protection Advisory Committee.
 - Barbara and Jan plan to attend Ocean County Sustainability Hub meeting #2 on July 15. This is a collaborative group of environmentally inclined people. Here is a link to their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/286400801843944/>
Others are welcome to attend. RSVP to Keith Rella at krella@twp.brick.nj.us.

The Protection and Health of the Land



Recycling

- Brad had received a notification that residents were leaving their trash at the curb for pickup when they leave town. Further that, in some cases, Republic had picked up recyclables that did not meet the requirements, as opposed to leaving it and providing the homeowner with a note of the lack of recycling compliance.
- MEC agreed to recirculate the information that was sent out to residents in May via the Borough web site and the Mantoloking Reporter to remind residents that Republic is paid for back door pickup and the Dos and Don'ts of recycling in Mantoloking.
(Completed)

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- Jan, Claudia and Beth met on July 2 to review the ERI to improve its relevance to the Planning Board.
- Jan reviewed the recommendations from this meeting with MEC members. The primary topics were:
 - Enforcement – the Borough does not proactively enforce zoning laws. Residents must complain and are reluctant to do so. Even when the Borough sends violation letters, there is little follow-up.
 - Native Plants – this should become a major thrust of the MEC. We can showcase examples of native gardens (Peter Kellogg, Patty Brant Park, Beth Nelson, Bay Head Recycling Center) as well as provide specific recommendations. Barbara agreed to lead this effort with help from Beth and the Seaweeders.
 - Storm Water Management – Barbara indicated that there is an issue of pool water runoff, both on the streets to storm drains (that go into the Bay) and on neighboring properties. There is a similar issue with sump pumps pumping into storm drains.
 - Improving Environment footprint. There was a wide-ranging discussion about areas for environmental improvement. Jan mentioned that we might consider adopting something similar to the Monroe County, Florida “Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO)” that requires new construction to be more environmentally sustainable by requiring a certain number of environmental points in order to build, e.g., solar panels for power/hot water, native plants, salt water pools. This concept was favorably received.
 - Noise – Jan had reviewed the Borough’s noise regulations and found them to be quite comprehensive. The issue is that they are not enforced.
 - Planning Board meetings – neighbors who object need to attend Planning Board meetings to voice their concerns. Otherwise, the Planning Board members have little to stand on to deny a variance application.
- Jan has not yet inquired of Planning Board attorneys how an ERI would be most useful.



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The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay

- There was discussion about additional plantings at the beach entrances at Downer and Herbert. Jan will contact Scott to see what grants might be available to support this.

More Action on the Dead Black Pines

- There was not update as John was unable to attend the meeting.

Communication:

- Denise was unable to attend the meeting and thus there was no report. Denise is having some technical issues with setting up the MEC Facebook account.

Barnegat Bay Marina (BBM) Variance Request

- The next scheduled hearing is on July 10.
- Jan contacted with the Brick EC about this application. They provided comments to their Zoning Commission. Beth had planned to attend their meeting on June 25 but was unable to at the last minute.

New Business:

The MEC discussed a number of potential new initiatives to pursue, listed below. In general, the MEC thought that we should collaborate with other nearby ECs as it is likely that we have shared interests. Jan agreed to contact other EC chairs.

- Speakers Bureau. Willie stated that SBB can help obtain speakers while ECs can help publicize. Beth suggested Louise Wooten as a speaker.
- Benefits of native plants (especially over impermeable man-made products). We need to make residents more specifically aware of which native plants are suitable for Mantoloking. We can consider making available the Barnegat Bay Partnership "Going Native" brochure. Barbara indicated she has a contact.

Willie mentioned that Mantoloking has a federally endangered plant, the Sea Beach Amaranth, on its beach near the foot of the dunes. He stated that the seeds are dispersed by storms. Beach goers should avoid this area. Willie suggested contacting Meaghan Kohl of the New Jersey Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service

(<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/contact.html>)

- Impacts of Storm water management
- Climate change and Mantoloking survival (Mantoloking is predicted to be underwater with 95% probability by 2100)
- Reducing shoreline reliction - extending slow speed/no wake zone. It was suggested that we consider the approach that was used at the Slade Dale Park on Dorsett Dock Rd in Point Borough.
- Potential impacts of offshore wind generation – pros and cons
- Noise pollution – what level of background noise is acceptable, e.g., from HVAC, generators, motor boats, traffic, outdoor speakers? Is our existing ordinance sufficient?



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- Light pollution – what level of lighting is acceptable, e.g., from accent lights on houses or on landscaping, spot lights, flag lights, street lights, etc. Is our existing ordinance sufficient?

Jan invited others to add ideas to this list. At the next meeting we can prioritize and assign responsibility. Beth noted that focusing on noise pollution might be most helpful to the Planning Board.

Important Upcoming Environmental Events

- Ocean County Sustainability Hub meeting #2 – July 15 – 6:30 PM at Brick Municipal Building
- SBB Annual Meeting – Tuesday, July 23 @ 6:30 PM at the Ocean County Library
- SBB and the NJDEP will be co-hosting a conference October 22 – 24 at a hotel on Rt. 72 in Stafford. Each day will focus on a different topic 1) enforcement 2) Storm water management 3) Non-Government Organizations (NGO).

Jan moved a motion to close the meeting. Brad seconded; all were in favor. The meeting ended at 6:50 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 10	Jan attended the lecture "Landscaping in a Shore Community" in Point Pleasant Beach.
April 27	Claudia handed out tree seedling to residents.
June 8	Jan and Barbara participated in the Barnegat Bay Blitz.