



MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

MEC Member	Present?
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
D'Arcy Green (liaison; Chair Borough Environmental Committee)	No
Denise Boughton (Planning Board Liaison)	No
Beth Nelson	No
Connie Pilling (by phone)	Yes
Barbara Turro (by phone)	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
Brad Batcha (liaison; Member Borough Environmental Committee)	Yes

The meeting was called to order at the Mantoloking Borough Hall at 4:35 PM. Two Mantoloking residents, Jan O'Malley and Haley Kardek, also attended.

Old Business:

General:

Selection of Meeting time

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that these meetings will take place on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM. The only exception will be in November when we will meet the fourth Monday. Our next meeting is therefore scheduled for Feb. 25th at 5:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Connie Pilling made a motion and Brad Batcha seconded the approval of the December 2019 Meeting Minutes distributed via email on December 15, 2019 @ 11:17 AM. Jan O'Malley agreed to convert the word doc to PDF form & send it to Edwin O'Malley who will publish it on the borough website. *(Completed)*

Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- The last section to be reviewed was discussed and agreed upon by all present.
- Jan O'Malley will create a PDF and distribute. *(Completed)*
- Barbara B. will then forward it to Jane White in her capacity as Planning Board Chair. *(Completed)*
- As per one of the recommendations in the ERI, a Community Policing Seminar should be pursued. Barbara B. will speak to the Chief of Policy, Stacy Ferris.



Green Team

- Green Team logistics:
 - It was agreed that the Green Team Meetings will coincide with Environmental Commission Meetings. A portion of each meeting will be dedicated to the advancement of this team.
 - Likewise, the minutes & reports will be one in the same.
 - Before any decisions are made as to leadership of this team, Barbara B. will speak to D'Arcy Green.
- Evaluation and prioritization of "green team" projects will take place at subsequent meetings once leadership has been established.

The Protection and Health of the Land

- **Japanese Black Pines** -- John Wesson has agreed that by our next meeting, he will walk down Rt 35 and measure from the curb to determine who is responsible for the dead pines in that area between Lyman and Herbert. Many residents have already cleaned up dead trees along the road; some of these offending trees might fall within the public easement. An inventory will then be put together and shared with Brad during the next meeting. Informal conversations with any residents will then take place. (John)
- **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant** -- The grant was submitted and we should hear by Jan. 24th whether we're selected or not. We have until 7/1 to implement with a Final Report due in August. (Haley/Beth)
- **2020 NJ Tree Recovery Program** -- The application was submitted 1/13/2020 by Barbara B. It was requested that we receive no Oaks or Dogwoods and that if possible, Bayberries, Hollies, and Beach Plums be provided. This event is being coordinated with Scott Hulse and distribution of the seedlings (5 per household) is currently scheduled for Sat., April 25th 9 AM – 1 PM. (Barbara B./Beth)

The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay

- **Mantoloking Police Marine Patrol Unit** -- How Mantoloking patrols its bay front is currently under discussion within the Finance & Public Safety Committees. It has been proposed that the current boat be donated to the OC Sheriff in exchange for a Memorandum of Understanding that would memorialize that the Sheriff would provide marine patrol of Mantoloking shorelines Fridays – Sundays from late June through Labor Day for a number of years, potentially 10. Brad will follow-up with the Council as to where we are with this proposal. (Brad)
- **Ordinance on banning of plastic bags on the beaches** -- This is an outshoot of the "Choose to Reuse Campaign". There is a statewide bill pending that would phase plastic use out over the next several years. We will



wait to determine what happens at the state level before proceeding with this initiative.

Communication:

Denise – no report

New Business:

The Protection and Health of the Land

- **Save Barnegat Bay Co-run Clean Up** -- This event is planned for 3/15/2020, 11 am – 2 PM for North and south lagoon/Bergen bay front areas. Will Save Barnegat Bay be willing to also help clean up the beach entrances? Barbara B. will contact them with this question. (Barbara)
- **Pinelands Preservation Alliance** -- Correspondence took place in November as to this organization agreeing to supply us with 14 “Keep off the Plants” signs to post at each of our beach entrances. Also discussed was an Educational program on Native Plants to take place tentatively on 5/1/2020 at the MYC. Barbara B. will forward this email to Haley and Connie to follow-up on. (Beth/Connie/Haley); *(Completed)*

The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay

- **Berkley Township Underwater Search & Rescue Research** – This organization has evaluated several bulkhead sites in Mantoloking and are interested in using these locations for their research in bulkhead cleaning of nettles. News of whether we are selected for this research is pending. (Beth)
- **Grant Opportunity for Harmful Algal Blooms** – This grant application is due Feb. 10th. What can we do with this funding? Haley will send an email to Beth to see if she has any ideas. (Haley/Beth)

A motion to adjourn at 5:33 was put forth by John Wesson and it was seconded by Barbara Turro. The 2020 MEC meeting schedule will be resubmitted to the Borough Clerk by Barbara B. (Completed).