



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	Yes
Connie Pilling (by phone)	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	No
Brad Batcha (liaison; Member Borough Environmental Committee)	No

The meeting was called to order at the Mantoloking Borough Hall at 5:35 PM. One Mantoloking resident, Haley Kardek, also attended.

Meeting Minutes

Barbara Turro made a motion and Connie Pilling seconded the approval of the January 2020 Meeting Minutes distributed via email on January 15, 2020 @ 7:51 PM.

The Protection and Health of the Land

- **Japanese Black Pines** – No report on this initiative. (John)
- **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant** – It was suggested that Haley, as the writer of the Grant, contact Michele DeBlasio, her contact, and get an update as to where we are with the grant. (Haley/Beth)
- **2020 NJ Tree Recovery Program** – Everything is set for the distribution of the seedlings on April 25th. Further advertising will need to take place to Mantoloking residents. (Barbara B./Beth)
- **Lagoon Clean-up at Bergen Ave.** planned with Save Barnegat Bay on 3/15/2020, 11 AM – 2 PM. All supplies will be provided by Save Barnegat Bay. This event will be used to justify the Clean Communities Grant from the state. A sign-up sheet was provided by April Yezzi. (Barbara)
 - Discussion ensued regarding use of this funding (\$4,000 annually) to fund Spring Landscaping of Patty Brand Garden which is normally paid for by the Garden Club. Likewise, there are a number of “bay ends” that require this same type of remediation...i.e. a landscaper going into the water with waders to perform clean-up. **Beth will follow-up on this** with April Yezzi. (Beth)
- **Pinelands Preservation Alliance**
 - “Keep off the Plants” signs are being made right now. The intent is to place them at 14 beach access points prior to the summer season. **Haley will hear back in a couple of weeks.** (Beth/Connie/Haley)



February 25, 2020

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- Jason is the individual who is interested in providing an Educational Talk on Native Plants. While 5/1 is the date that was previously mentioned, it's likely that the attendance would be low...too early in the season. Would Jason be available at a later date? How many people would he expect to attend to make it worth his while? **Haley will follow-up with her contact.** (Beth/Connie/Haley)
- Discussion also ensued regarding doing something together with the Bay Head Environmental Commission. Dan Paulus is the chair. **Barbara B. will follow-up.** (Barbara B.)
- **Community Policing Education.** It was agreed that there is no interest on our part in pursuing this further at this time. **This item will be closed out.**

The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay

- **Mantoloking Police Marine Patrol Unit** – The MEC drafted resolution regarding our support of such a unit has not been approved by Council. However, a Council drafted resolution is pending. Currently, the Council and Police Department are searching for a single-man rigid inflatable boat and the MYC has plans to host a fund-raiser this summer to help the borough pay for a significant portion of the boat's costs, staffing, and maintenance. Until then, the current boat will be manned throughout the summer season on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Sea Nettle Polyp Clean-up/Berkley Township Underwater Search & Rescue Research** – Discussion ensued regarding whether this is really an initiative under the purview of the Environmental Commission. It was also noted that this research is being done as part of a partnership with Save Barnegat Bay. Prior to closing this out, **Beth agreed to follow-up** with Larry Nelson, who is involved with the initiative. (Beth)
- **Ordinance on banning of plastic bags on the beaches** – **This item will be closed out.** A resolution (2019-152) was passed by the Council on 11/19/2019. It urged the NJ Legislature and Governor to enact a law banning single use plastic and paper bags.

Communication:

Denise – no report

Available Grant Opportunities

Discussion ensued regarding the following available grants. While this funding could very well assist us with Green Team Actions, given the due dates & the fact that we're in the early stages of planning, we may not be able to take advantage of these grants.

- 2020 ANJEC Grant for Open Space Stewardship Projects; applications due 4/3/2020; Up to \$1500 (<https://anjec.org/>)
- NJ American Water offering grants to address watershed or source water protection; Deadline for application is 3/31/2020. (<http://bit.ly/2020AWGRANT>)



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Upcoming Events

- Sustainable Jersey, Green Team 2.0: Building Your Capacity & Promoting Your Team Webinar; **3/4/2020**, 11 AM – 12 noon
- Sustainability HUB Meeting; **3/16/2020** at 6 PM; 300 Engleside Ave., Beach Haven, NJ 08008
- ANJEC, Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions, **March 14, or 28.** (March 7 is filled up)
- 2020 Sustainability Summit, Fri., **6/12/2020**, 8 AM – 4:30 PM, Bell Works, Holmdel, NJ

Green Team

- Barbara Turro and Barbara Benz have agreed to co-lead the Green Team,
- A review of deadlines and requirements for Bronze level certification took place with the most important deadline being the submittal of our 2020 action plans by May 17th.
 - Bronze level certification requires:
 - Establishment of a mandatory green team.
 - Implementation of 2 of 12 priority actions.
 - Complete actions in 6 of 18 categories.
 - Complete actions that total a minimum of 150 points.
- A quick tutorial of the Sustainable Jersey Website was given by Barbara B.
- The Mantoloking Green Team Action Tracking spreadsheet (started by Jan O'Malley in 2019) was reviewed by the team.
 - The spreadsheet now contains columns that track a number of action characteristics: assigned green team owner, # of categories, whether it's a Bronze Priority item or not, the category the action is contained in, comments, points, and status.
 - Highlighted in yellow were those actions that if completed by the 11/22 deadline, would result in a Bronze level certification.
- It was acknowledged that while it is a goal to reach Bronze level certification this year, given the timeline and our manpower, this may not be possible in 2020.
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2020 Accomplishments:

- The ERI was finalized and supplied to Council. A link was established from the Borough web page and a copy was provided to Jane White in her capacity as Chair of the Planning Board. (1/21/2020)
- The 2020 NJ Tree Recovery Program application for seedlings was submitted (1/13/2020) and approved by the NJ DEP (1/31/2020). Distribution will take place 4/25/2020.
- Attended Sustainable Jersey Webinars:
 - 1/29/2020, What's New in 2020, Program Updates: Barbara T. & Barbara B.
 - 2/5/2020, Making a Game Plan for Getting Certified: Barbara T. & Barbara B.
 - 2/6/2020, 2020 Census: Barbara T. & Barbara B.
 - 2/11/2020, Staying in the Game: Strategize Your Recertification: Barbara T.



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- The Changing Economics of Recycling Seminar at Rowan College on 2/26/2020. Barbara B. attended.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM. Our next meeting is on 3/24/2020 at 5:30 PM.