



MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Virtual MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

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

Utilizing the Borough's bridge number, the virtual meeting was called to order at approximately 5:37 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Beth Nelson made a motion and Barbara Turro seconded the approval of the February 2020 Meeting Minutes distributed via email on March 4, 2020 @ 11:58 AM.

Congratulations again to Haley for her appointment to the Commission on Tues., 3/17.

Green Team Business →

- Review of Green Team Actions Spreadsheet:
 - Assigned actions were reviewed by each respective owner and a brief summary of the most recent status, as per this review, is included in the Action Tracking spreadsheet.
 - As part of the Natural Resources: Natural Resource Inventory Action Item, the following policy was agreed upon during the meeting:

Natural Resource Inventory (ERI) Update Policy: *The Environmental Resource Inventory will be reviewed every five years or as needed by the Mantoloking Environmental Commission/Green Team.*

Version 1 was distributed to the Borough of Mantoloking January 2020 and distributed to the Planning Board Attorney March 2020. Therefore, unless legal changes are required or there has been some change in Mantoloking's environmental landscape, this document will be revisited again in January 2025.

The language of this policy will be reviewed and voted upon during the next MEC/Green Team Meeting on April 28th.



March 24, 2020

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- As part of the Public Information and Engagement: Digitizing Public Information Action Item, Brad will follow-up with Beverley as to the redesign of the Borough website.
- As part of the Waste Management: Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance Action Item, Haley will be following up with Beverley about including Recycling information in the May mailing to residents.
- Discussion ensued as to a Council presentation on Sustainable Jersey, the purpose of Green Teams, and how all of this benefits the town & positively promotes the Council and the Mayor. It was agreed that once in-person meeting restrictions are lifted, we should contact Brad and ask to be added to the Caucus agenda.

MEC Business →

- **The Protection and Health of the Land**
 - **Japanese Black Pines** – John reported that there aren't that many dead black pines at this time. He will speak to the Mayor and then potentially take down the trees himself. (John)
 - **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant** – Haley and Beth had met last week. The next step is to buy the plants however Northern Bayberries have been hard to find. Unless they can be located, the number of differing plants will need to be adjusted. John suggested that Del's Farm Market might have them as he purchased them there last year. [Googled after the meeting...2408 Rt. 37 East, Toms River, NJ 732 270-3703] (Haley/Beth)
 - **2020 NJ Tree Recovery Program** – Given the statewide shut-down that's currently in effect, this program is currently on hold. (Barbara B./Beth)
 - **Pinelands Preservation Alliance**
 - "Keep off the Plants" signs: Can we get these signs even though the Educational Program on Native Plants is currently on hold? Haley will follow-up with Heather. (Beth/Connie/Haley)
 - Educational Program on Native plants: on hold for now due to COVID 19. Is there a possibility of doing a webinar? Haley will follow-up. (Beth/Connie/Haley)
 - Partner with Bay Head Environmental Commission? Barbara B. spoke to Dan Paulus and they did express a desire to work with once the virus clears. (Barbara B.)
- **The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay**
 - **Lagoon Clean-up at Bergen Ave.** -- The event occurred on 3/15/2020. Sixteen volunteers showed up who were broken into three teams. Garbage was collected along Bergen Ave., South Lagoon Lane, Lyman St., and beach areas & access points from Chafey Place south to Newman Place. (Barbara)
 - **Clean Communities Grant** – Beth had requested (from April Yezzi) that some of this grant money be used to pay PT help to clean the "yuk" at the Patty Brand Memorial Garden & Arnold Ave. It was agreed that this covers all of the Borough properties where this garbage exists in the water. (Beth)
 - **Mantoloking Police Marine Patrol Unit** – No further updates on this initiative at this time. (Brad)



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- **Sea Nettle Polyp Clean-up/Berkley Township Underwater Search & Rescue Research** – This program is currently contingent on a grant to be distributed in the middle of July. The cleaning however needs to take place in the spring prior to the polyps maturing AND this is when MYC is available as well. Therefore, they are trying to work out an arrangement to receive funding now in order to proceed in the spring. (Beth)
- **Communication:**
 - MEC FB page has continued to be updated. Please continue to send to Barbara B. anything you think is appropriate for posting. (Barbara B./Denise)
- MEC Representation at July 4th Town Celebration
 - It was agreed that, assuming this town celebration takes place, this is an excellent opportunity to advertise who we are and educate residents on environmental issues pertinent to living on a barrier island.
 - Beth will follow-up with Denise as to what we can hand out and how much it will cost. (Beth)
 - Not clear who in town is running this event. Used to be a Parade Committee run by Nancy Ness. Could we setup a table under the meeting room outside? John will follow-up with Beverley. (John)

Upcoming Events

- ANJEC, Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Webinar, **3/28/2020**, 9 AM – 1:30 PM.
- Offshore Wind Is Coming to the US: An Update for NJ, Webinar, **4/14/2020**, 7 – 8:30 PM. Email kjurgensen@co.ocean.nj.us to register.
- 2020 Sustainability Summit, Fri., **6/12/2020**, 8 AM – 4:30 PM, Bell Works, Holmdel, NJ

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).
- Partnered with Save Barnegat Bay to hold town wide clean-up of bay and ocean areas on 3/15/2020. Sixteen volunteers showed up and 12+ bags of garbage were collected.
- 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.
 - 3/4/2020, Sustainable Jersey, Green Team 2.0: Building Your Capacity & Promoting Your Team: Beth N., Barbara B., and Barbara T.
- The Changing Economics of Recycling Seminar at Rowan College on 2/26/2020. Barbara B. attended.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Overview of NJ's Artificial Reef Program on 3/2/2020 attended by Haley Kardek.



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- ANJEC, Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Webinar on 3/28/2020 attended by Beth Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 PM. Our next meeting is on 4/28/2020 at 5:30 PM.