



**MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Meeting took place at 1012 East Ave. & via bridge**

Attendance:

<b>MEC/Green Team Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Brad Batcha (liaison; Member Borough Environmental Committee)	No
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
D'Arcy Green (liaison; Chair Borough Environmental Committee)	No
Haley Kardek	Yes
Beth Nelson	No
Connie Pilling	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
<b>Green Team Member</b>	
Jan O'Malley	Yes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:32 PM.

**Meeting Minutes**

Haley Kardek made a motion to approve the June 2020 Meeting Minutes. Connie Pilling seconded the motion. These minutes had been distributed 6/29/20 at 11:13 AM.

**Green Team Business →**

- 60 out of 160 points worth of actions were approved as part of our Sustainable Jersey Application for Bronze level certification. We need a minimum of 150.
- Must Revise Action reviewer feedback and next steps were discussed:
  - Animals in the Community: Feedback indicated a need for educational programming. Given our lack of schools, *an email has been sent to the reviewer for further information as to how to modify this action for our town.* An education event during the Roots for Rivers fall planting is planned for 9/12 with a rain date of 9/13. **This action may be in jeopardy.**
  - Climate Adaptation: Feedback indicated that Final Report needs to be uploaded. *Waiting for it to be presented to Town Council Executive Committee, possibly in Sept.*
  - ERI: Feedback indicates that it needs to be incorporated into the Master Plan. However, if this doesn't happen by Sept., the reviewer indicated to resubmit as Completed and a discussion will ensue...maybe partial points will be awarded? **This action is in jeopardy.**
    - *A virtual meeting took place on 7/7/20 with Barbara B., Jan O., and the Planning Board Attorney, Joe Coronato. It was agreed that:*
      1. *Plans (as submitted to the Planning Board) should continue/start to be sent to Barbara B. on an ongoing basis in order to give the MEC an opportunity to comment on them from the perspective of recommendations made within the ERI.*



2. *Joe was going to speak with Jane White regarding his recommendation to convene a planning board subcommittee on discussing the ERI and ultimately dialoguing with the MEC regarding the ERI recommendations.*
    - *Jane White followed up on 8/1 and indicated that the Subcommittee was being put together. They will likely meet a couple of times prior to inviting the MEC.*
- Digitizing Public Information: The reviewer gave a couple of suggestions but otherwise indicated we will be Approved even if suggestions are not executed.
  - Improved Public Engagement in Municipal Government: Feedback indicates that "Rules for citizen input" need to be published. *Jan has already followed up with Beverley to place these rules on the Town Council Agendas and to Jane White to place them on the Planning Board agendas.*
  - Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal: Feedback requested: (1) live link to a municipal web page that provides information to residents about the prescription drug drop-off program; and (2) a Report on the number of prescriptions collected from within 18 months of the June submission deadline which we've been having problems getting due to Covid.
    - *Barbara B. will work with Haley to get the live link established.*
    - *Haley will follow-up again with Police Department and involve Barbara B. if necessary.*
  - Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance: Feedback requested a number of items: (1) a statement from the recycling coordinator about the number of inspections/violations issued to date (question of commercial vs residential?); (2) upload of visual accepted materials flyer along with when, how, and to whom it was sent; (3) Documentation of at least two (2) times information was distributed to residents on the importance of and methods for reducing household waste. Can include shredding.
    - *Haley will email the reviewer to inquire as to what she meant by "commercial". She will also follow-up with the Recycling Coordinator for a statement as requested.*
    - *Haley will follow-up with Beverley and possibly Brad Batcha as to the "visual accepted materials" flyer.*
    - *Haley will gather the documentation on distributions re: the importance of and methods for reducing household waste.*
  - Discussion ensued as to what our potential gap might be in points. Given that 30 points out of the 160 points we submitted are in jeopardy and given our need for a minimum of 150 points, we need at least 20 additional points to be safe.
  - The next submission deadline is 9/11/20 with feedback by mid-Oct. If not approved during this round, there is one final opportunity to resubmit the application on 11/22/20 in order to become certified this year.
  - Beth, in advance of the meeting, had written up a brief evaluation of the feasibility of several actions that had been assigned to her. This evaluation was used as part of this conversation.
    - Green Challenges (10 points): The Water audit is ready to go. Haley will post it on FB in order for the general population to participate. She is also hoping to



involve the MYC Jr Sailing Group. 3% of the town population needs to participate in order to be eligible for these points.

- Diversity on Boards & Commissions: It was agreed that due to lack of volunteers in our borough, it doesn't make sense to pursue this action.
- Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies (10 points): Beth had indicated that this was likely fairly easy. Jan agreed to take the lead.
- Fleet Inventory: This will not be pursued at this time.
- Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities (5 points?): Upwards of 50 pts. We have been given access to the manuals provided by the builder. Beth will setup an appointment with Beverley to go in and review them.
- New Construction (20 points): Beth will work on this in conjunction with Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities

### MEC Business →

- **The Protection and Health of the Land**
  - **Japanese Black Pines** – John plans on utilizing his own resources to remove dead pines along Rt. 35. For safety reasons, he has contacted Lance in hopes of receiving a police escort while performing this work. Plans are to perform this work within the next week or so.
  - **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant**
    - The plant order has been placed by April.
    - Haley will contact Pinelands Nursery with an exact pickup date.
    - It was agreed that Sat., 9/12/20 will be the planting/educational talk date with 9/13/20 set aside for a rain date. 10 or 11 AM is the targeted time of day. These dates/times need to be confirmed with Beth prior to finalization of the event.
    - Haley will put together an educational talk on “creating a living dune system” which will be presented at the onset of this planting work.
    - The formal grant report is now due Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Mantoloking July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration** – A table was setup in the MYC entrance from which MEC Reusable bags were distributed to individuals. Beth, Haley, and Barbara B. manned the table although Jan was present for a period of time as well. Also contained on the table was a tri-fold, put together by Barbara B. and Haley, that presented information on the commission/green team and past/upcoming events.
- **The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay**
  - **Mantoloking Police Marine Patrol Unit**
    - The Mantoloking Police boat is going out on a regular basis.
    - Given the increased volume of boats on the bay, Stacy has also requested additional patrols from the State Police boats.
    - Three Ocean County Sheriff's Officers have also been trained on our town boat and are now in the weekly schedule.
    - The Police Boat fundraiser, planned for Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, is considered a town wide event. Barbara B. will therefore create a post for our FB page. (done)
  - **Beach Cleanup Event**



- The beach cleanup is planned for Sun., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. This date was selected specifically because it falls after the timeframe when the beach is being regularly maintained by the town.
- Barbara B. will advertise this event on FB and request that it also be included in the calendars featured in the Ocean Star Newspaper and on the municipal website.
- The date was discussed with Brad and Scott who indicated that he will provide us with any needed supplies such as gloves and bags.

- **Seabeach Amaranth Endangerment**

- The following motion was moved by Connie, seconded by John, and then carried with a vote of 5 to 0 in favor. It was then agreed that it would be forwarded to Lance White and Staci Ferris with a cc to Brad Batcha, Scott Hulse, and D'Arcy Green.

***Vehicles used to travel the beach are coming too close to the foot of the dunes, which are roped off in order to allow Seabeach Amaranth along with other native species to grow.***

***Seabeach Amaranth, endemic to Atlantic Coast beaches and barrier islands, serves a vital purpose within the dunes in that it is an effective sand binder, building small dunes where it grows. Federally listed as a threatened species since 1993, vehicular traffic is considered to be one of the main threats inhibiting its ability to grow and thrive.***

***The Mantoloking Environmental Commission is officially requesting that Chief Staci Ferris and Mayor Lance White address this issue with police, beach, and public works employees who utilize vehicles on the beach.***

- An email was sent on 8/2/20 at 2:58 conveying this motion.
- **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)

### **Upcoming Events**

- ANJEC Webinar: Climate Change Resiliency Update, Thurs., 8/6 at 12:30. Signup by emailing Jennifer Coffey at [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org).

### **2020 Accomplishments:**

- The ERI was finalized. 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.
- 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.
  - 4/6/2020, 2020 Certification Cycle Changes Webinar: Barbara B.
- ANJEC Webinars:
  - Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Webinar on 3/28/2020: Beth Nelson and Barbara Turro.
  - Single-Use Plastics, The Impact of Litter on Habitat & Waterways, 4/30/2020: Barbara B., Barbara T., and Haley.
  - Environmental Commissions Functioning & Flourishing in Unique Times, 6/11/20: Barbara B.
- The Changing Economics of Recycling Seminar at Rowan College on 2/26/2020 attended by Barbara B.
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Overview of NJ's Artificial Reef Program on 3/2/2020 attended by Haley Kardek.
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Shoreline Protection Webinar on 4/20/2020 attended by Barbara T.
- PPA, Shoreline Protection Webinar repeated on 4/30/2020 & attended by Barbara B., Haley, and Beth.
- Planting of 18 PPA donated Beach Plums at Downer Beach access point. Plants laid out on 5/15 by Haley & Beth. Planted on 5/20 by Haley. Ongoing watering being performed by Beth & Larry Plevier.
- KMM Webinar Series – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on 5/20/2020 attended by Barbara B.
- Organized & promoted PPA Educational Program on 5/27/20.
  - “Protecting Critical Dune and Beach Habitat” was presented by Ryan Rebozo, PhD Director of Conservation Science via Zoom.
  - Co-sponsored with BH Environmental Commission
  - Advertised via MEC FB, the Ocean Star, the Mantoloking Reporter, Blogtrottr, and placed on Municipal website.
- Sustainable Jersey Bronze certification application submitted on 6/14/20. As a part of this application, the following actions were documented:
  - Animals in the Community Education (10 points)
  - Community Education & Outreach (15 points)
  - Create a Green Team (10 points)
  - Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risks (20 points)
  - Emergency Communications Planning (15 points)
  - Environmental Commission (10 points)
  - Natural Resource Inventory (20 points)
  - Digitizing Public Information (10 points)



July 28, 2020

Meeting Minutes No: 2020-07

- Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government (15 points)
- Municipal Communications Strategy (10 points)
- Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal (10 points)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance (15 points)
- Meet Doug Tallamy, Author of “Nature’s Best Hope” Webinar, attended by Barbara Turro on 5/28/20.
- Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, NJ Climate Change Resource Center Webinars
  - Climate Change Resources in NJ attended by Barbara Turro on 6/3/20.
  - New Tools to Visualize Climate Features in NJ attended by Barbara Turro on 6/18/20.
- A motion on protecting Seabeach Amaranth from vehicular traffic on our beaches was passed on 7/28/20 by a vote of 5 to 0. This motion was in turn on our beaches by vehicular traffic Endangerment motion passed by a vote forwarded to Mayor Lance White and Chief of Police Stacy Ferris on 8/2/20 at 2:58 PM.
- Mantoloking July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration distribution of MEC Reusable bags – A table was setup in the MYC entrance from which MEC Reusable bags were distributed. Beth, Haley, and Barbara B. manned the table although Jan was present for a period of time as well. Also contained on the table was a tri-fold, put together by Barbara B. and Haley, that presented information on the commission/green team and past/upcoming events.
- Approval of \$1096.80 Sustainable Jersey Roots for Rivers Grant funded by The Nature Conservancy on 2/26/20.
  - The approval of funding for this Living Dune System Project will allow for 90 plants to be placed on the back dune (western side) and beach access points at Lyman Ave., Downer Ave., and Princeton Ave. By diversifying the vegetation community on these dunes, we will strengthen the dune system and help reduce any further erosion while enhancing the habitat and resources available to wildlife.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM. Our next meeting is on 8/25/2020 at 5:30 PM.