



March 22, 2022

Meeting Minutes No: 2022-03

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting held in-person in the
Steve Gillingham Meeting Room, Municipal Building**

Attendance:

MEC/Green Team Members	Present?
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
John Mooney	Yes
Beth Nelson	No
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
Green Team Members	
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Peter Andruss	Yes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:33 PM. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes

John W made a motion to accept the January 25, 2022 Meeting minutes and Barbara T seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

John W volunteered to do the April meeting minutes

Chairman Comments

Barbara Benz called the meeting to order.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business →

Planning Board

- No new applications.
- 915 Barnegat Lane – DEP approved. After inspections the DEP concluded that the builder was in compliance and that no endangered species would be harmed.

Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance

- John W. took down a tree in front of the power station and expects at least one more to be coming down in the area. Some other trees are dying slowly and John will continue to remove as needed.
- John W removed about 3 truckloads of Crepe Myrtle branches pruned along Route 35 and he will continue to monitor the health of the trees as we move toward growing season.
- John W. also volunteered to gather any trash that might accumulate along Route 35 in the borough. Thank you, John.



Bronze Certification

- Had a lengthy discussion on renewing Mantoloking' Bronze Certification, which expires in December 2023 and has an application deadline of May 2023. Jan O. led the discussion around accumulating 155 points (enough for recertification) by updating our actions from the last round. Jan recommends that we complete the update by May of 2022. Currently the updates are assigned to Barbara B., Barbara T., and Jan. We would like to spread out the work, so Jan will send the spreadsheet out to everyone and each member should choose an action to update. It was noted that some items should be written in a way that recognizes they may not be directly relevant to the Mantoloking Borough municipal situation. The spreadsheet will also include some new actions we should consider if we decide to pursue Silver Certification.

ANJEC Climate Change Bill Guidance

- John M. commented on the webinar meeting of January 27th, which he attended. Beth N. made reference to the very important work that Doug Nelson has accomplished regarding flood mitigation in our area. Furthermore, Beth N. provided that work and studies by town officials and engineers regarding this topic have been going on for over 20 years. One accomplishment that was highlighted is the raising of roads in certain areas of the town. Barbara B. inquired as to whether or not there is room for the MEC to assist the town with flood mitigation efforts and if this ties in with land use. There was discussion. Jan O. believes that we can provide a supporting role. John M. mentioned that there is a recording of the January 27th webinar which includes a "Climate Change Toolkit." The webinar meeting was also attended by Beth N., Jan O., and Barbara T.

Swan Point Oyster Array (*Preservation of Swan Point Project*)

- There are no updates regarding this project.

Environmental Resource Inventory

- Jan O reported that there are many aspects of the ERI that she will be able to update by the end of the year.

OC Northern Recycling Center Tour for MEC/Green Team Members

- Barbara T. reports that tours are now available and that we will schedule one at our next meeting.

MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives →

PSE&G Grant

- Expect a decisions on the grant to be made in mid-end of April timeframe.

Construction/Landscaping Advice for Residents Pamphlet

- Possibly funded by grant.
- No other update at this time.

4/9 COA Beach Sweep

- Registration is open for The COA Beach Clean-up to be held on April 9th. Everyone that can make it should register and spread the word to neighbors and friends. The first group start time is 9:00 AM and the second group start time is 10:00 AM.



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- Barbara B. is the Beach Captain. Barbara B. completed on Beach Captain Training on 3/16/22.

4/22 (Earth Day) NJ Community Tree Recovery Seedling Distribution

- Scott Hulse will pick up the seedlings on 4/21. The distribution date will be on Earth Day, April 22nd which is a Friday. Distribution will take place between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and the location will be at the covered outdoor area at the west end of the borough hall. One hundred seedlings, size 6" to 24", have been requested. The commission also plans to distribute re-usable bags and re-usable straws at this event. Barbara B. will be there with help from Peter A.(11:00), John M.(12:00), and John W.(1:00).
- Advertising for this event via Facebook, email, and the Mantoloking Reporter was discussed and will be taken care of by Barbara B.

April/May Publication of MEC/Green Team Newsletter

- Articles to be included are due to Barbara B. by April 8 (sent in Word, if possible):
 1. Reiteration of recycling contamination issues (Barbara B.)
 2. Promote the BagUpNJ and Skip the Straw campaigns (Barbara B.)
 3. Recycle Coach (Barbara B.)
 4. Health impact of climate change (John M.)
 5. Keeping the Bay safe using alternatives to herbicides and pesticides (Peter)
 6. Use of plastic plates and utensils (John W.)
 7. Police Boat Update (Jan)

Back Dune Plantings

- Possibly funded by grant, but we will have the event regardless.
- Barbara B. has chosen Seaside Golden Rod for the back dune plantings based on input from MEC members, availability, and inclusion in the list of allowed plants as per the Beach Replenishment Agreement with the state of NJ. These plants are being sourced from Cicconi Farms in Jackson, NJ.
- The planting date is proposed as May 21, but will be finalized over the next week or so. The project will be open to participation of residents in order to provide education about native and sustainable plants.
- The plan is to plant 10 plants at each of 3 street end locations; Downer, Princeton, and Lyman.
On the back side of the dunes only.

6/23 Diane Lewis and the Great Healthy Yard Project Educational Seminar

- Possibly funded by grant.
- Barbara Benz commented on the credentials of Diane Lewis, the environmental activist from Bedford NJ., and also purchased her book, "The Great Healthy Yard Project."
- The seminar will be held at the auditorium of the Sacred Heart Church in Bay Head.
- Barbara suggested that Peter A. reference this event in his article planned for the spring newsletter.
- Barbara T. confirmed that she has obtained a projector that Diane can use to plug her computer into.
- Insurance for the event is being covered by the Borough's insurance.

7/4 Native & Pollinating Plants Education

- Seed packets to be possibly funded by the grant.



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- According to Barbara B., mixed seed packets are no longer available from Pinelands Nursery and Supply. After doing more research as to what seeds are native AND pollinating, 125 Swamped Sunflower packets and 125 Purple Cone Flower seed packets have been set aside for us.
- The packets are to be distributed at the July 4th town celebration in conjunction with education for attendees.

Climate Change (C-Change) Educational Event: Climate Change and its Relationship to Your Health

- Possibly funded by the grant.
- The proposed date is 7/21 and it will hopefully take place at the Mantoloking Yacht Club. According to the Rear Commodore, Lauren Fasolo, MYC may be scheduling many events in July as it is their 125th Anniversary. In addition to the potential scheduling issue, she is concerned that turnout might suffer because of the numerous events in July.
- There also is an issue with the speaker that we had planned to use. Discussion ensued as to feedback the commission recently received as to this speaker. Possibly replace the speaker with another from the same organization?
- John M. will continue working on securing a date and planning the event.

MEC Facebook Since Last Meeting

- **Posts and Events established since January 2022 Meeting:**
 - 2/22 - Save Visitation Woods for Save Barnegat Bay requesting citizens to contact the Diocese of Trenton to prevent sale of the open space to a developer and encourage a sale for preservation.
 - 3/14 - Promote NJ Community Tree Recovery Seedling Distribution on April 22, Earth Day
 - 3/16 - Promote Ocean Clean Action Beach Sweep in Mantoloking, April 9th 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
 - 3/21 - Notice of MEC/Green Team meetings for March through May

Attended Educational Events:

- Flooding to Flourish Friday by ANJEC/Pinelands Alliance March 18 attended by Barbara T.
- Watershed Institute *Fireside Chat on Health of NJ Waters* with author Seth Siegel on March 16 attended by John M.

Upcoming Educational Events:

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 2022 Intro Fisheries Science for Stakeholders, 4/5/22, 6:30 – 9 pm
- Sustainable NJ webinar Accelerating Electric Vehicle Transition in Your Community 4/5 1:00 pm
- NJ Sustainability Summit at Bell Works, Holmdel June 24th, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

New Topics:

- Discussed whether MEC should sponsor a screening of Save Barnegat Bay 50th Anniversary documentary film “Drift”, the story of Barnegat Bay through the voices and eyes of people who cherish the bay. We agreed to decide after reviewing other local organizations scheduled to screen the film.
- John W. attended the Brick Planning Board public meeting on Visitation Woods and reported that it was overcrowded with residents against development. The meeting had to be rescheduled at a later date in a larger venue.



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- Jon W. also reported that he will attend the Point Pleasant Shade Tree Commission meeting on 3/23
- The MEC will participate in the Barnegat Bay Blitz, a cleanup of all bay beaches, and scheduled ours for June 4. We will use town volunteers and try to include an educational piece, perhaps with the new Barnegat Bay Ambassador. Ed O'Malley is the point person for this event.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:53 pm.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the borough hall on Tues., 4/26/2022 at 5:30 pm.