



## MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Attendance:

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

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

### Meeting Minutes

Barbara B. made a motion to accept the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Beth N. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. John W. volunteered to record the July meeting minutes.

### Chairman Comments

**Joan Mattia, Acting Chair of the Patty Brand Garden**, came to request MEC's support for the Seeweeder's Shoreline Stabilization project for the Patty Brand Garden on Bergen Ave. We discussed the history and the community value of the garden, which is the only community green space in Mantoloking, and reviewed a preliminary budget of \$910.74 prepared by Joan for the project. The project is not complex but will require that we have someone pick up the materials to avoid very high shipping and delivery costs. Beth N. suggested that since the town is responsible for this green space it should cover the cost of the project as well as continued maintenance. Barbara B will check with the town on the availability of Clean Communities money to finance the project. We may also want to check with Bay Head on any plans for Twilight Lake. The MEC believes this is a worthy project and supports it. We agreed to finance it from our budget if the town does not provide the funds. Thank you, Joan, for bringing this project to the MEC.

### MEC/Green Team Regular Business →

#### DEP/Planning Board

- Several new applications were discussed, but none required action by MEC.

#### Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance

- John W. reported nothing new with black pines and he will continue to monitor and work with property owners as needed. John also reported that many crepe myrtles along Route 35 are sprouting branches at their base. He will work on removing them. We thank John for his work in this area.



### Conflicts with MEC October meeting and Fall COA Beach Sweep

- Barbara B has a personal conflict with these events. The group decided to evaluate the need for the October MEC meeting at the September meeting. Peter Andruss volunteered to take on Barbara's usual role as the beach captain for the October 22 COA Beach Sweep. Training takes place approximately one week prior.

**Bronze Certification Update:** No update from Sustainable Jersey.

## Timeline

	FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	THIRD ROUND
<b>Submission Deadline</b>	May 22	August 28*	Nov. 20
<b>Return Date</b>	Early-July	Early-October	Mid-Dec.

- Animals in the Community (10 pts)
- Community Education & Outreach (15 pts)
- Create a Green Team (10 pts)
- Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risks (20 pts)
- Emergency Communications Planning (15 pts)
- Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies (10 pts)
- Environmental Commission (10 pts)
- Natural Resource Inventory (20 pts; *was not approved last round*)
- Digitizing Public Information (10 pts)
- Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government (15 pts)
- Municipal Communications Strategy (10 pts)
- Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal (10 pts)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance (20 pts)



### **Preservation of Swan Point Project**

- No update from Jan. The NJDEP grant application mentioned last month is due in August.

### **Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)**

- Jan O. reported last month that she will update completed ERI recommendations before the end of the year. These updates would be submitted to MEC for approval.

### **OC Northern Recycling Center Tour for MEC/Green Team Members**

- Barbara T. confirmed a tour at the Recycling Center for August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. The Center can accommodate up to 10 people.

### **MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives →**

#### **Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation Funded Grant**

- Barbara B. reported that we have begun spending the \$2000 grant as illustrated below.

#### **Construction/Landscaping Advice for Residents Pamphlet**

- This will be funded by the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation grant.
- Since there are many other priorities now, this will be addressed in the fall.

#### **6/4 Barnegat Bay Blitz**

- This took place in conjunction with the Barnegat Bay Partnership from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Patty Brand Memorial Garden and along South Lagoon Lane, as well as the end of the streets along the bay down to Herbert St.

#### **6/11 Back Dune Plantings**

- 10 Seaside Golden Rod plants were planted at each of 3 street end locations: Downer, Princeton, and Lyman, on the back side of the dunes.
- These plants were sourced from Cicconi Farms in Jackson, NJ. Some Mantoloking residents participated and were given a brief educational talk on native and sustainable plants by Barbara B.
- These plants were funded by the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation grant.



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

- Diane Lewis, an environmental activist, was the guest speaker for the seminar held at the auditorium of the Sacred Heart Church in Bay Head.
- The seminar focused on gardening without chemicals to improve the quality of our water and the health of our community.
- 32 people attended the event and the feedback from those attending was very positive.
- This event was funded by the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation grant.

### **7/4 Native & Pollinating Plants Education**

- 125 Swamped Sunflower packets and 125 Purple Cone Flower seed packets have been set aside for us. The packets will be distributed at the July 4<sup>th</sup> town celebration in conjunction with education for attendees. The event was promoted in the Ocean Star and at the MYC. A new MEC trifold will be available for the event.
- The seed packets are being funded by the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG Foundation grant.

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

- Barbara B. reported that Lauren Fasolo volunteered to host the presentation at her home on 8/17 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Kathleen Biggins, the founder of C- Change Conversations will be the speaker.
- John M will forward the link to Climate Change and Health video on the Rutgers Climate Resource Center website.

### **MEC Facebook Since Last Meeting**

- **Posts and Events established since the May 2022 Meeting:**
  - 5/24 - \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant award funded by the PSEG Foundation
  - 5/27; 6/8; 6/9; 6/13; 6/21 - Promote The Great Healthy Yard Project
  - 5/25 - Consider planting native plants
  - 5/27 - Back Dune planting event promotion
  - 5/27 - Sustainable Jersey PSEG Foundation Grant Ceremony
  - 6/1 - Nature Friendly Yard in Mantoloking, courtesy of John Wesson
  - 6/1 - Another beautiful shot of John Wesson's native landscape
  - 6/2 - Barbara Turro shares her garden of beautiful native Amsonia and Bayberries
  - 6/2 - Photos of Baptisia in Barbara Turro's native garden
  - 6/4 - The Barnegat Bay Blitz with photos
  - 6/4 - More Barnegat Bay Blitz photos
  - 6/7 - Recycle Beyond the Bag Promotion
  - 6/10 - Back Dune Planting plant arrival
  - 6/13 - Back Dune Planting with photos
  - 6/23 - Reminder for The Great Healthy Yard Project.
  - 6/25 - The Great Healthy Yard Project, as presented by Diane Lewis
  - 6/25 - Great Healthy Yard Project Pledge
  - 6/25 - Healthy Yard Project donated to the town lending library
  - 6/25 - Promote Save Barnegat Bay's - A free STEM Summer Series (SSS)

### **Attended Educational Events:**

- NJ Sustainability Summit at Bell Works, Holmdel 6/24 by Barbara B. Sessions included:

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- ☐ Creating a Sustainable Energy Community through Community Education Planning
- ☐ All Things Electric Vehicles
- ☐ Technical Assistance Spotlight Expert Hands for Energy Projects
- ☐ On the Frontlines of Climate Change: What Municipalities Can Do
- Climate Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment 6/3 by Barbara T
- ANJEC's Community Engagement Round Table, and Advancing Justice Initiatives in NJ 6/14 by Barbara T
- Diane Lewis' talk on "The Great Healthy Yard Project" 6/23 by Barbara B, Barbara T, Beth N, and John W
- "Offshore Wind in New Jersey: How Best to Bring Wind Power Ashore?" virtual roundtable 6/23 by John M.

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**Upcoming Educational Events:**

- ANJEC NJ ADAPT virtual training July 27 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm by Rutgers Climate Resource Center
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**New Topics:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:54 pm.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the borough hall on Tues., 7/26/2022 at 5:30 pm.