



July 26, 2022

Meeting Minutes No: 2022-07

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	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
Green Team Members	
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Peter Andruss	Yes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:37 PM. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes

Beth N. made a motion to accept the June 28, 2022, meeting minutes, and John M. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Jan O. tentatively volunteered to record the August meeting minutes

Chairman Comments

Barbara Benz called the meeting to order.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business →

Planning Board

- No new applications that would have any environmental impact.

Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance

- John W. states that he will trim the shoots that grow out from the base of the crepe myrtle trees on the DOT right of way. He will also remove any dead branches and trim back any growth that would block passageway along the sidewalk. This will include trimming of the cherry trees as well. Beth N. commented that perhaps the lower growth on the crepe myrtles should not be removed, and John W. explained that not removing them would inhibit growth at the upper part of the trees. Connie Pilling, resident and former MEC member, commented on extreme height of the Leyland Cypress trees on town property on the south side of Albertson Street, and she is wondering if the town public works division could trim them. Barbara B. will discuss the matter with Scott Hulse. No discussion of dying black pines which have mostly been eradicated from the borough.



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Bronze Certification

- Jan O. provided a brief update. Resubmittal is due on August 28, 2022.

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

- There are no updates regarding this project currently. Resident Ann Colie Lewis was in attendance, and she introduced the subject of motorboat wake in the bay area between Swan Point and the western shore of Mantoloking opposite Swan Point, just south of the current no wake zone in front of the Mantoloking Yacht Club. As this wake is detrimental to the shoreline of Swan Point and is a nuisance to other boating activities in this narrow part of the bay, she questioned as to why there are not more “no-wake” barrels in this area. Barbara B. informed us that Joe Celentano has been and continues pursuing this effort to moor additional barrels.

Environmental Resource Inventory

- There are no updates currently.

OC Northern Recycling Center Tour for MEC/Green Team Members

- The tour is expected to take place on August 18, 2022, and 7 to 10 attendees are expected.

MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives →

PSEG Grant

Barbara B. provided an update, and there was discussion and review on the topics as follows:

Construction/Landscaping Advice for Residents Pamphlet

- This will be funded by the grant.

Native & Pollinating Plants Education

- Also funded by the grant, 30 Seaside Goldenrod, 125 Swamped Sunflower, and 125 Purple Cone Flower seed packets were purchased as a part of the educational endeavor to educate residents on the benefits of using native plants and pollinators. Of the 250 seed packets, there were 70 left after the July 4th distribution

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

- Beverly Konopada, the borough clerk and borough risk manager, removed the event from the borough calendar and is refusing to use the Civic Ready email system to advertise the event as a result of it being hosted at a private residence. The presentation was to be held at the home of Lauren Fasolo, who generously offered her residence as the location for this venue. Although the C-Change organization does carry insurance, the borough could still be sued.

Therefore, relocation of the event to the meeting room at the borough hall was considered to be a reasonable solution, and it was unanimously decided to be relocated accordingly. Beth N. suggested that refreshments be served in the covered outdoor area underneath the meeting room from 5:00 to 5:30 PM prior to the presentation. This would provide a nice opportunity for attendees to mingle and meet the guest speaker, Kathleen Biggens and other contributors to the presentation.



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It was also mentioned that Kathleen wanted to include politicians at the presentation, however, this was discouraged as MEC is a-political. With this change of plan unanimously agreed upon, Barbara B. indicated that an email would be distributed via the Civic Ready platform, and that the Ocean Star would like to have an article regarding the announcement and also information about the event in the 8/5/2022 edition. MEC will be invoiced \$400.00, the cost of the event, and it will be covered by the PSEG grant.

Patty Brand Park Shoreline Protection

- Clean Communities funding will cover the cost of the core logs and rebar to secure the logs. This project is necessary to sustain the shoreline of this community park. The Mantoloking Public Works Department is scheduled to initiate the installation during the first week of August. Joan Mattia has volunteered to provide weed maintenance at the garden in the park. Barbara B. suggested that the Patty Brand Park be added as a regular business item to the MEC agenda.

MEC Facebook Posts and Events Since 6/28 Meeting:

- 6/28 – Event established for Native Plant Education & Seed Distribution on 7/4
- 6/30 - The Watershed Institute's 22nd Annual Butterfly Festival on 8/6
- 7/4 – Advertising Seed Packet Distribution & Educational Event
- 7/7 – Bay Head Flooding Meeting which may be of interest to Mantoloking residents/owners
- 7/10 – Link to video produced by the NJ Climate Change Alliance
- 7/10 – New Garden Center with Native Plants
- 7/14 – Crepe Myrtle work by John Wesson
- 7/19 – Household Waste Disposal Fall Schedule
- 7/20 – Event established for Kathleen Biggin's Speaking Engagement
- 7/21 - Photos of two Great Blue herons and an egret on Joan Mattia's dock
- 7/21 - Link to National Geographic article about milkweed planting to help Monarch butterflies
- 7/23 - Link to NASA's "climate spiral" which depicts global warming

Attended Educational Events:

- No events were attended.

Upcoming Educational Events:

- Nothing scheduled at this time.

New Topics:

- Regarding the subject of Monarch butterflies, Jan O. informed us that the town of Marathon, Florida has programs designed to encourage the Monarch population. There are actually town requirements pertaining to landscaping that are intended to provide Monarch habitats, and there are sanctuary cities in the town as well. Marathon also holds an annual Monarch butterfly festival. Jan will research other organizations that maybe aren't Monarch butterfly specific.
- Discussion and plans to plant milkweed at the Patty Brand Park Garden was well received. The goal is to make this an objective for 2023 with a budget of about \$400. John W. volunteered to supply milkweed plants and seed pods of which he has an abundance of at his property.
- Connie Pilling expressed concern about American flags being flown around town that are shredded and frayed and could something be done about this. It was determined that this is not in the jurisdiction of the MEC.



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- Regarding light pollution, Ann Colie Lewis voiced concern about the excessive amount of lighting on stairways and steps around town. Barbara B. suggested that Ann speak with Brett Radi, the town Business Administrator, who works with the town Code Enforcer. Jan O. referenced the ordinance and read the code.
- In preparation for a fall newsletter, Barbara B. requested that each member have an idea or topic to contribute to the fall edition, and to present such at the next meeting.
- Ann Colie Lewis stated that she would like to get involved with environmental matters around town and would like to join the MEC. It is expected that she will be appointed as a Green Team member at the August meeting. MEC is grateful for Ann's interest and enthusiasm.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:57 pm.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the borough hall on Tues., 8/23/2022 at 5:30 pm.