



September 27, 2022

Meeting Minutes No: 2022-09

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
Ann Colie	No

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes

John W made a motion to accept the August, 2022, meeting minutes, and Beth N seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

John W. agreed to do the minutes in November.

Chairman Comments

Barbara Benz called the meeting to order.

Because of commitments by several members, the committee decided to cancel the October meeting due to a likely lack of a quorum. The only significant item anticipated for October was Jan O.'s draft ERI update. Jan agreed to send the updates to members with the expectation that members will review them, make any comments and provide feedback to her in time for the updated ERI to be read at the November MEC meeting on November 22.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business ☐

Planning Board

- Nothing significant to report at this time.



Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance

- John W. has completed his trimming of crepe myrtles along Rt. 35 for the season and this will be removed from the agenda. John W will continue to keep an eye on any developments.

Bronze Certification

- Barbara B. provided an update. All required actions were completed and submitted prior to the August 28, 2022 deadline. We expect additional feedback in early October. The committee agreed that for a town like Mantoloking maintaining Bronze Certification is the most reasonable goal for the immediate future.

Fall Newsletter Update

- Barbara B reported that the newsletter is near completion and will send out a draft this week. The goal is to receive committee feedback and publish this weekend.

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

- Jan reported on her communication with Dennis Blazak, Chair of Point Pleasant Borough Environmental Commission (EC), who continues to work this issue.
 - Dennis met with the Brick EC on August 30th highlighting the subsidence of Swan Point and its need for restoration. They will discuss with their town council, seeking authorization for planning by the town engineer.
 - Dennis briefed the Point Boro town council two weeks ago on the need to collaborate with other municipalities (Mantoloking, Bay Head, Brick, Brielle) in northern Barnegat Bay on the challenges impacting the Jersey Shore.
 - Dennis spoke with Danielle McCulloch of the FWS (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). She is aware of Swan Point and believes that the FWS would take interest, as it is adjacent to a Forsythe unit. Suggested a face to face with Forsythe's director, Virginia, possibly with participation by Save Barnegat Bay.
 - Dennis offered several suggestions for Jan's ERI recommendation 6.13.2, including collaboration with FWS and NJDEP Division of Wildlife and Fisheries to protect shorelines, such as Swan Point, from erosion/subsidence.

Environmental Resource Inventory

- As reported above, Jan is in the process of updating the ERI, both the content and recommendations. She expects to distribute a draft for review by the committee with the goal of incorporating feedback and submitting the updated ERI for approval by the MEC at the November 2022 meeting.

Patty Brand Memorial Garden Shoreline Protection & Garden Maintenance

- Nothing to report at this time.

MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives

Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant

- Barbara B reported that all grant projects have been completed except for Construction/Landscaping Advise Pamphlet. It will focus on environmentally responsible advice for both new and existing homeowners.



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COA Beach Sweep October 22, 2022

- Peter A. will act as the beach captain and attend the COA training session.
- Time will be 9:00 – 12:00 pm and all members are encouraged to participate
- Details will be posted on the MEC Facebook page.

MEC Facebook Posts and Events Since 7/26 Meeting:

- 9/13 - End balloon releases in New Jersey!
- 9/13 - Don't forget to properly dispose of any old tattered American flags on the 2nd floor of the municipal building.
- 9/22 - The Borough of Mantoloking will be receiving its allotment of dune grass on Friday, November 4, 2022. Ocean Front homeowners may call in and request dune grass now (732-475-6983 ext. 301), or email deputyclerk@mantoloking.org.
- 9/26 - Don't miss Sarah Galloway's inspiring documentary, **WILD in the Garden State**, screening at the Jersey-Friendly Yards conference on Oct. 1st at Ocean County College.
- 9/27 – Posted - Spotted Lanternfly article in The Patch - The invasive species lays eggs from September through December and contain up to 50 eggs each.

Attended Educational Events:

- 8/30 - Save Barnegat Bay Charting a Course - Stormwater Series: - Jan
- 9/15 – Anjec Climate Mini Series – The Arctic Meltdown Why It Matters in NJ - John M
- 9/19 – Rutgers Weathering The Storm: Increased Resiliency a Decade After Superstorm Sandy: Dr. David Robinson (Rutgers University) - Extreme weather events - Jan, John M
- 9/26 – Rutgers Weathering The Storm: Increased Resiliency a Decade After Superstorm Sandy: Dr. Tom Herrington (Monmouth University) - Coastal and community resiliency - Jan

Upcoming Educational Events:

- ANJEC Environmental Congress - 10/11,12,13 and 10/14 (in person)
- Climate Change Mini Series – 10/3 and 10/11



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New Topics:

- Beth N. brought an article published in The Patch that outlined the pattern that the Lanternfly species lays its eggs on trees with photos and advice on what people can do to find and destroy these pests before they hatch. Posted the article on MEC Facebook page.
- John W reported that the power substation treated vegetation on their property at 1548 Ocean Av. without posting what chemicals were used. Barbara B will contact Bret R to follow up with them on the process of reporting the chemicals to the town.
- Reestablishing the Mantoloking Historical District (that existed prior to Sandy in 2012) was a topic of discussion brought up by Jan O'Malley. Does the district still exist and if so, can signage be obtained?
- NJ DEP published an **ADDENDUM TO THE 2020 NEW JERSEY SCIENTIFIC REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE**. Key findings and conclusions are listed below in italics with the link to the full report.

NJ DEP

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH & COMMUNITIES

September 2022

<https://nj.gov/dep/climatechange/docs/nj-scientific-report-human-health-addendum.pdf>

KEY FINDINGS

- *The extreme weather events predicted for New Jersey, including heat waves and heavy precipitation, can lead to both immediate and long-term effects on cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental health.*
- *Climate change is anticipated to worsen air quality from both natural and human-made sources, which may lead to greater instances of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illnesses, and cancers in vulnerable populations.*
- *Infectious diseases spread by arthropods, insects, and microbial contamination of food and water supplies are expected to become more prevalent as climate change increases the environmental conditions that are more favorable for pathogens and their hosts.*
- *Population displacement as a result of sea-level rise, flooding events, and resource insecurity may add to the cumulative detrimental effects of climate change on mental health as individuals cope with the environmental and personal consequences of climate change.*
- *Climate change will act as a threat multiplier for Environmental Justice communities, exacerbating existing stressors such as air pollution while adding new threats such as infectious diseases. These communities are also more vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather events, as they may lack adequate infrastructure, health, income, and resources to prepare for and recover from natural disasters. Food insecurity is worsened by climate injustices, which increase the already high frequency of chronic illnesses in impoverished areas.*

Conclusions

This addendum summarizes how changes in temperature, precipitation, sea-level rise, and extreme weather can directly and indirectly lead to detrimental effects on human health. These effects include acute and chronic cardiovascular and respiratory conditions; vector-, food-, and waterborne diseases; community displacement; and can contribute to negative mental health and sometimes mental illness. In particular, the addendum focuses on how our understanding of the current and anticipated impacts on New Jersey's environment, natural resources, and infrastructure, will affect individuals and communities therein. The climate crisis disproportionately harms vulnerable



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populations (e.g., children, elderly, and the chronically ill) and households that are economically and socially disadvantaged. It is anticipated that the effects on the human population will be significant, and the strain on existing infrastructure, including medical and public health services, will grow.

Severe storms and extreme temperatures will affect agricultural production, threatening food supplies. Flooding and sea-level rise will decrease water quality. Pollution from wildfires and ground level ozone will diminish air quality. Pathogens, through various mechanisms, are anticipated to become a greater public health concern. Importantly, these factors will not be isolated, but rather, will be a collective challenge to our ways of living. Understanding how these challenges posed by climate change threaten human health and communities is essential to establishing strategies and environmental policies that can effectively and equitably protect and improve health outcomes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 11/22/2022 at 5:30 pm. There will be no meeting in October.