



February 28, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-02

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting held in-person in the
Steve Gillingham Meeting Room, Municipal Building
And via conference bridge.**

Attendance:

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

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

Meeting Minutes

Barbara Turro moved the approval of the January 24 minutes. John Wesson seconded. Unanimous approval. John Mooney will do the March minutes.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business

Planning Board:

- There was no new planning board business that involved any environmental concerns.
- There was discussion regarding the ERI and how it ties in with the town master plan and zoning. The protocol for MEC input to the planning board is expected to be resolved before long.
- Jan inquired about the settlement pertaining to the subdivision at 1025 Barnegat Lane, and John W. stated that this application was initially submitted prior to the time when the MEC started being notified of variance applications.

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

- Jan informed the commission that there is no update at this time.

Patty Brand Memorial Garden Shoreline Protection & Garden Maintenance

- Barbara B. indicated that routine annual maintenance of the garden will start up in the spring, and that there are no other updates at this time. It was suggested that the Barnegat Bay Blitz on April 22nd should start at the garden.



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MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives □

Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant

- Construction/Landscaping Advice for Residents Pamphlet.
 - Barbara Benz emailed a draft copy of the “Mantoloking Guide to Living in Harmony with Our Barrier Island Environment” at approximately 4:45 PM prior to the meeting. She noted that the brochure is being funded by the PSEG grant.
 - There was discussion regarding the contents and layout. Jan suggested that some information about composting be included in the pamphlet. The inclusion of rain barrels was also discussed.
 - Distribution logistics of the pamphlet was discussed, and Peter suggested that it be distributed with beach badges. However, because individuals purchasing beach badges aren't the intended audience, it was agreed that this would likely be a waste of brochures. Denise Boughton suggested however that it be distributed along with the Blue Books and Mantoloking Residential Guide.
- The final Report is due 5/21/23. The draft of this report will be available in April for comment by the MEC.

2023 Calendar (No changes in calendar since the last meeting.)

- April 1: Beach Cleanup with Clean Ocean Action; Peter Andruss will be the Beach Captain.
- April 22 (Earth Day): Seedling Distribution from 9 to 11 AM at Borough Hall
- April 22: Barnegat Bay Blitz, 1 – 3 PM starting at the Patty Brand Garden on Bergen Ave.
- July 4 (July 4th Townwide Celebration and Parade): Setup table during MYC festivities to include give aways (bags, straws, and seeds) in addition to continued messaging as to use of Native Plants and Pollinators to help butterflies & bees.
- Oct. 21: Beach Cleanup with Clean Ocean Action

There is no definitive date set for the showing of DRIFT, the film produced by Save Barnegat Bay. Beth was not present to comment on her follow-up on this issue.

Spring Newsletter

- The plan is to publish and distribute by the end of May rather than May 1st.
- Suggestions for newsletter topics were requested at the last meeting and they are as follows:
 - Description of the Patty Brand Garden and a reminder to visit it. (John Mooney)
 - A summary of the larger context of bay shoreline preservation, including Swan Point. (Jan O'Malley)
 - Awareness about the recent bird influenza and how to report unusual bird activity; Rutgers would perhaps be a research source for this topic. (John Wesson)
 - Updates and information regarding the purpose and use of the Mantoloking police boat along with some photographs. (Jan O'Malley)

Mantoloking Historical District

- Barbara B. has asked Brett Radi, the Borough Administrator, to look into the paperwork required for the Architectural Survey grant application that would fund a portion of this work.



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MEC Facebook Posts and Events since 1/1/2023 Meeting:

- Recycling of Christmas trees (1/2)
- Free webinar on Gardening for Pollinators and Songbirds (1/9)
- NJ Audubon 8-week virtual webinar series for how to make your outdoor space more inviting to wildlife (1/9)
- Cautions as to use of ice melt products and environmentally friendly alternatives (2/6)
- Barnegat Bay Partnership/BMUA free webinar on Deicers and the Environment (2/6)
- Save the Whale Rally in Point Pleasant Beach (2/16)
- 4/1 Event - COA Beach Sweep with MEC (3/8)
- 3/28 Event – MEC/Green Team Meeting (3/8)
- 4/25 Event – MEC/Green Team Meeting (3/8)
- 5/23 Event – MEC/Green Team Meeting (3/8)
- 4/22 Event – Barnegat Bay Blitz (3/8)
- 4/22 Event – NJ Tree Recovery Seedling Distribution (3/8)

MEC Attended Educational Events:

- ANJEC Environmental Commission Roundtable: Electric Vehicles in NJ. 1/24/2023. Attended by Barbara B. and Peter A.
- Clean Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, and Rapid Decarbonization in the PJM Region. 2/10/2023, attended by John M.
- NJ EPR Teach in Webinar – Beyond Plastics – Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center. 2/23/2023. Attended by John M.
- NJ EPR Teach in Webinar – Reduce Plastic Pollution and Save Taxpayer Money. 2-23-2023. Attended by Barbara T.

Upcoming Educational Events:

- 2023 NJ Sustainability Summit (in-person) at Bell Works, Holmdel NJ, 5/5/2023 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

New Topics:

- There was concern from the public regarding storm water flow and drainage pertaining to fill dirt and grading at a property being developed along Route 35. Discussion ensued. Ultimately it was and this issue falls under the jurisdiction of the construction department. (Barbara B. followed up)
- John W. expressed concern regarding the clear cutting of native and well-established vegetation in conjunction with the redevelopment and construction here in town, and suggested that the Commission encourage the planning board to consider this with respect to the Mantoloking Master Plan. This is a concern shared by all the MEC members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 PM.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 3/28/2023 at 5:30 pm.