



March 28, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-03

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	No
John Mooney	Yes
Beth Nelson	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
Green Team Members	
Jan O'Malley	Remote
Peter Andruss	Yes
Ann Lewis	No

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

Meeting Minutes

John W moved the approval of the February 28th minutes. Barbara T seconded. Minutes approved with a minor modification. April 25th meeting will be cancelled due to travel plans for several members. Jan O volunteered to do May minutes.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business

Planning Board:

- No new business at the Planning Board that involved environmental concerns.
- Pending the resolution of legal issues brought up by both the Borough lawyer and the Planning Board lawyer, the development of a communication protocol between the EC and the Planning Board will be on hold. The ERI inclusion in the town Master Plan will await this action. Beth N to follow up.

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

- \$256.86 spent by Joan Mattia for spring maintenance contractor will be reimbursed by the MEC as agreed last year.
- Had a discussion regarding the establishment of a more specific annual maintenance plan, which would be approved by the MEC chair in consultation with the President of the Seaweekers.
- Established a budget of \$600 for 2023.



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MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives □

Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant

- Construction/Landscaping Advice for Residents Pamphlet will be called “Mantoloking Guide to Living in Harmony with Our Barrier Island Environment”.
- This is the final project funded by the PSEG Grant. It will be distributed along with the Blue Books and Mantoloking Residential Guide.
- The final report on the PSEG Grant is due on 5/21/23. Barbara B will complete a draft prior to that date 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 at the Lyman St location. Everyone was encouraged to participate and promote this event.
- **Note** – subsequent to the board meeting COA rescheduled the Beach Cleanup to April 15 due to the weather.
- April 22 (Earth Day): Seedling Distribution from 9 to 11 AM at Borough Hall. Scott agreed to pick up the 220 seedlings allocated to Mantoloking on April 21. Barbara B. and John M. will manage the distribution table, but all are encouraged to come.
- April 22: Barnegat Bay Blitz is an annual watershed-wide cleanup that brings together hundreds of volunteers to keep our land and water clean by removing litter from our neighborhoods. <https://barnegatbaypartnership.org/protect/blitz/>. The Mantoloking event, captained by Ed O'Malley, will be held from 1 – 3 PM starting at the Patty Brand Garden on Bergen Ave.
- July 4 (July 4th Town wide Celebration and Parade): Setup table during MYC festivities to include give aways (bags, straws, and seeds) in addition to continued messaging as to the use of Native Plants and Pollinators to help butterflies & bees. One idea to attract attention and participation made by John W was to develop a recycling game that illustrates some of the items that confuse people as to their recyclability. John W. will consider and let us know if he thinks this is feasible.
- 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 to follow-up on this issue. Develop a location and time.

Spring Newsletter

- Plan to publish and distribute by the end of May. Barbara B. suggested that the articles be short with a People Magazine type style. Article drafts are due May 14. Beth N. volunteered to help with the editing process.
- Newsletter topics were requested at the last meeting and they are as follows:
 - Description of the Patty Brand Garden with photos and a reminder to visit the garden. (John M.)
 - Information concerning bird resources, the recent bird influenza, and reporting unusual bird activity. (John W.)
 - Updates and information regarding the purpose and use of the Mantoloking police boat along with some photographs. (Jan O)
 - Recycling and the use of the app, Recycle Coach. (Barbara B)



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- Pesticides alert. (John W.)
- A summary of the larger context of bay shoreline preservation, including Swan Point. Jan O. to explore and let us know if this is a feasible article.

Mantoloking Historical District

- An updated Architectural survey is necessary in order to reestablish the previous existing historical districts. B. Benz had given the information for potential grant money to Brett Radi, the Borough's Business Administrator. However, the amount of information required to be submitted by April 19, 2023 was too great to meet the deadline. We hope to be part of the next round of grants.
- A survey will be sent out in May to everyone's email who is registered with Civic Ready for Borough of Mantoloking news. The survey will be written to determine the amount of interest on the part of landowners in town in reestablishing our historical status.

MEC Facebook Posts and Events since 2/24/2023 Meeting:

- 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)
- Video of Lion's Mane jellyfish in Barnegat Bay by John W (3/28)
- Reminder to view a 5 planet alignment right after sunset on 3/28. (3/28)
- Goal for 2023 is to meet or exceed 80 Facebook posts

MEC Attended Educational Events:

- Seaweeders General Meeting with guest speaker, Kathleen Biggins, covering "A Climate Change Primer". Beth N. and Barbara B. attended.
- Presentation sponsored by the Seaweeders on "Easy Care Perennials throughout the year for the Seashore" on March 16th, 2023 Barbara T. attended

Upcoming Educational Events:

- 2023 NJ Sustainability Summit (in-person) at Bell Works, Holmdel NJ, 5/5/2023 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.
 - 14 Educational Sessions
 - Sustainability Exhibit w/ 40+ businesses and organizations

New Topics:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 5/23/2023 at 5:30 pm.