



May 23, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-05

## 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	Yes
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 March 28th minutes. Barbara T. seconded. The minutes were approved. John M. volunteered to take the June meeting minutes.

### MEC/Green Team Regular Business

#### Planning Board:

- Barbara B. thanked Beth N. for her long and excellent service on the MEC. She has resigned from the MEC due to inherent potential conflict between serving on both the Planning Board and the MEC.
- Beth N.'s resignation will enable the finalization of the communication protocol between the MEC and the Planning Board regarding Planning Board applications. The draft protocol will be reviewed at the next MEC meeting and, if approved, incorporated into the ERI as a 2023 update to Recommendation 6.1.2.
- Planning Board hearing(s) relative to the adoption of an amended Master Plan Re-examination report, potentially including the ERI, will be held over the summer.
- There is currently no new business at the Planning Board but two applications are expected for the June meeting.

#### 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 met with Joan Mattia and Scott Hulse (DPW). Scott will continue to maintain the Garden. He has already planted Spartina in the core logs.



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- There was a discussion regarding the establishment of a more specific annual maintenance plan, which would be approved by the MEC Chair in consultation with Seaweed Representative, which is now Lauren Fasolo. Joan Mattia has officially stepped down but will continue to be involved as a peripheral level.
- The 2023 EC budget for the garden is \$600.

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

### **Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant**

- The “Mantoloking Guide to Living in Harmony with Our Environment” is complete and available in the Borough Hall. 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 was submitted 5/20/23. It is due on 5/31/23.

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

Past:

- April 15: COA Beach Clean-up: 10 people participated and cleaned the entire beach.
- April 22 (Earth Day) Community Tree Distribution: 222 seedlings were allocated to Mantoloking. Barbara B. and John M. managed the distribution table. 12-15 families picked up seedlings. Some remaining seedlings were distributed at the Barnegat Bay Blitz.
- April 22: Barnegat Bay Blitz; about 15 people participated.

Future:

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Town wide Celebration and Parade: A table will be set up at MYC around 11:30 and will include give aways, perhaps bubbles, water bottles or seeds, in addition to continued messaging as to the use of Native Plants and Pollinators to help butterflies & bees. Jan will liaise with MYC.

Another theme (4Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse (e.g., straws)) to attract attention and participation is to develop a recycling game that illustrates some of the items that confuse people as to their recyclability. John W. will bring this to the June meeting for review.

- Oct. 21: Beach Cleanup with Clean Ocean Action. Peter Andruss agreed to be beach captain.
- DRIFT showing update: Beth has proposed a date to Save Barnegat Bay but the date is not yet confirmed.

### **Spring Newsletter**

- Plan to publish and distribute in June. Written articles are due to Barbara B. by 6/2/23.
- Newsletter topics include:
  - Local Environmental trips (Ann)
  - Description of the Patty Brand Garden with photos and a reminder to visit the garden. (John M.) Complete
  - 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) Complete
  - Recycling and the use of the app, Recycle Coach. (Barbara B) Will complete by 6/2/23
  - A summary of the larger context of bay shoreline preservation, including Swan Point. Jan O. is still seeking input from Dennis Blazak.



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### **Mantoloking Historical District**

- After the Spring newsletter is completed, a survey will be sent out 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 3/23/2023 Meeting:**

- 4/15 Beach Cleanup (4/19)
- 4/22 NJ Tree Recovery Seedling Distribution (4/22)
- 4/22 Barnegat Bay Blitz (4/22)
- 5/6 Boat Flare disposal (4/10)

The goal for 2023 is to meet or exceed 80 Facebook posts; 57 people were reached between 4/25-5/22

### **MEC Attended Educational Events:**

- Planting your Garden with Native Plants, Monmouth County Native Plant Society: Beth N. attended.
- 4/24 Microplastics Webinar: John M. Jan suggested looking at the Rozalia Project and potentially inviting Rachel Miller as a future speaker.  
<https://www.rozaliaproject.org>

### **Upcoming Educational Events:**

- Rutgers 2023 Coastal Stewardship Course; Tuesday evenings (7:00 – 9:00 PM) from May 30 through August 8

### **New Topics:**

- John W. observed that the Crepe Myrtles are doing pretty well but will continue to trim them over the summer.
- John W. brought up a noise issue and handed out the Summit ordinance as an example.
- Jan O. brought up noisy leaf blowers and asked that they be banned. Barbara B. will take this up with the Borough Council.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

**The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 6/27/2023 at 5:30 pm.**