



June 27, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-06

## MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Attendance:

<b>MEC/Green Team Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
John Mooney	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
<b>Green Team Members</b>	
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Peter Andruss	Yes
Ann Lewis	No

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:31 PM. A quorum was present.

### Meeting Minutes

Barbara T. moved the approval of the March 28th minutes. John M. seconded. The minutes were approved. Jan O. volunteered to take the July meeting minutes.

### MEC/Green Team Regular Business

#### Planning Board:

- No new business with environmental considerations.
- The Planning Board has proposed the following protocol for MEC input to the Planning Board as per ANJEC'S Environmental Commissioners' Handbook:

*Before a public hearing, the MEC should send the planning board a memo containing findings of fact and recommendations on any application and/ or master plan proposal that has environmental significance. A MEC member should attend the meeting and read the memo aloud so it will be recorded in the minutes.*

- MEC unanimously adopted this protocol as Resolution 2023-01.
- Next step - Jan will finalize the most recent version of the ERI for June 2023 incorporating the protocol as a 2023 update to Recommendation 6.1.2, which currently reads: *Per NJ Code Title 40:55D-27b, the Planning Board should forward to the MEC chair an informational copy of every application to the Planning Board to provide an opportunity for environmental review and comment.*
- Barbara B. will send to Beth N., as Planning Board Chair, to include in their master plan report.



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

- Jan informed the commission that there is no update at this time despite reaching out to Dan Blazek.

### **Patty Brand Memorial Garden Shoreline Protection & Garden Maintenance**

- Barbara B confirmed that Scott will continue to maintain the Garden.
- The annual maintenance plan will be approved by the MEC Chair in consultation with Seaweed Representative, now Lauren Fasolo. Joan Mattia has officially stepped down, but will continue to be involved on a peripheral level.
- The 2023 EC budget for the garden is \$600.

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

#### **2023 Calender**

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Townwide Celebration and Parade:
  - Jan will liaise with MYC to supply 2 tables for MEC.
  - Plan 11:30 am – 1:00 pm coverage. BB, JW, JM will set up at 11:00 am.
  - Barbara B to send a notice out through Beverly and post event on Facebook. Two new MEC Posters are complete and will be brought to the event.
  - MEC will continue messaging as to the use of Native Plants and Pollinators to help butterflies & bees. To attract attention to another theme (4Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse) John W. developed the Recycle Game and brought many items to the June meeting for review. As we reviewed them ourselves, it was clear that some items can easily confuse people as to their recyclability. Game should be informative and fun.
  - Prizes for the game; 250 Bubbles with MEC logo on cap, 80 seed packs, 58 reusable straws, 9 reusable bags.
- Oct. 21: Beach Cleanup with Clean Ocean Action. Peter Andruss agreed to be beach captain.
- DRIFT showing update: Peter A to follow up with Save Barnegat Bay on what we need to do to get it Aug 4 or Aug 11, 18 or 25. Can it be done at the Yacht Club? The film is 1.5 hours long.

#### **Spring Newsletter**

- Plan to publish and distribute in early July as a Summer Newsletter with lots of photos.
- Articles received to date:
  - Mantoloking Police Boat (Jan): requested updated photo from Chief Ferris
  - Patty Brand Garden plus photos (John M.)
- Pending from Barbara B.:
  - Recycling and the use of the app, Recycle Coach
  - Intro letter & tickler relative to July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Will distribute prior to July 4.



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### **Mantoloking Historical District**

- After the Newsletter is completed, there still is an interest in developing a survey to determine the amount of interest on the part of landowners in town for reestablishing our historical status.

### **MEC Facebook Posts and Events since May 2023 Meeting:**

- Save Barnegat Bay's STEM Summer Series announcement (6/12)
- 6/27 MEC/Green Team Meeting announcement (6/17)
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Town Wide Celebration Announcement – Play the Recycle Game (6/30)

The goal for 2023 is to meet or exceed 80 Facebook posts.

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

- ANJEC Climate Series: Offshore Research & Monitoring, May 31, Barbara T. attended.
- Rutgers 2023 Coastal Stewardship Course; Tuesday evenings (7:00 – 9:00 PM) from May 30 through August 8. John M attending.

### **Upcoming Educational Events:** None

### **New Topics:**

- John W. observed that the Crepe Myrtles are doing pretty well, but he will continue to trim them over the summer.
- Jan suggested looking into the Rozalia Project and potentially inviting Rachel Miller as a future speaker. <https://www.rozaliaproject.org>

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

**The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 7/25/2023 at 5:30 pm.**