



Oct. 24, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-10

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
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

Had a brief discussion on one item in the September meeting minutes, which Barbara B will amend, John W. moved the approval of the minutes. Barbara T. seconded. The minutes were approved. John W. volunteered to take the November meeting minutes.

MEC/Green Team Regular Business

DEP/Planning Board (John W.):

- The October Planning Board meeting was recently cancelled since no applications were received. Barbara B. felt that the issue regarding the draft protocol between the MEC and Planning Board regarding communication between the two should have been an agenda item for the October meeting. The issue remains and still needs to be reviewed by the Planning Board. If approved, it will be incorporated into the ERI as a 2023 update to Recommendation 6.1.2. As a member of the Planning Board, John Wesson will attempt to get the issue on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 11/2/23. John W reported that there were no new variances of interest to the MEC.
- There was no new information on whether the Planning Board will adopt the ERI as part of the amended Master Plan/Re-examination report.

Preservation of Swan Point Project

- Jan reported that in response to her recent email, Vincent Palmieri, the Brick Environmental Commission Secretary, referred her to the Brick Township Engineer, Elissa Commins. According to Vincent she is taking the lead on a Swan Point restoration and maintenance project under a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) grant.
- RGGI Strategic Funding Website



Oct. 24, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-10

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUI), and New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) released the State's first Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Strategic Funding Plan: Years 2023 through 2025 on July 19th, 2023. The Plan identifies the four initiatives the Agencies will invest the RGGI auction proceeds in for the years 2020 through 2022. The initiatives are:

- Accelerate Healthy Homes and Building Decarbonization
 - Catalyzing Clean, Equitable Transportation;
 - Strengthen New Jersey's Forests
 - Promote Blue Carbon in Coastal Habitats
- Jan made contact with Brick and Elissa would be able to have a meeting on Swan Point during the first or second week of November. Our goal - to encourage Brick to give the Swan Point project a high priority and to offer to partner with them in any way we can to move it forward. As Jan reported last month Save Barnegat Bay offered to become involved, helping to develop a good proposal and guide to the most appropriate organizations.

Patty Brand Memorial Garden Shoreline Protection & Garden Maintenance

- No new developments since we are now in the fall and winter months.

MEC/Green Team Other Initiatives

Calendar

- Peter A. reported that the second DRIFT showing on October 20th at the Mantoloking Yacht Club (MYC) at 7:00 PM was a success. 17 people attended. There were a lot of questions for the representatives from Save Barnegat Bay, Alec Boss and Brittany McLaughlin. They were very knowledgeable and personable and answered all questions.
- Peter A., the beach captain, reported on the Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps Cleanup held on October 21st with Lyman St beach as the base. The weather was stormy and there was a lot of debris on the beach, but the 6 volunteers were able to clean about 75% of the Mantoloking beachfront. The next Beach Sweep has not been scheduled yet, but it is expected to be close to Earth Day April 22, 2024.
- Jan has arranged for Rachael Miller of the Rozalia Project (<https://www.rozaliaproject.org>) to speak at MYC on Friday, May 24, 2024. We agreed to reimburse Rachael for her travel at government mileage rates of \$0.655/mile plus tolls from Vermont. It is 682 miles round trip; the total estimate is \$510. We will make some provision for the Rozalia Project to advertise/raise funds during her presentation.

Fall Newsletter

Target date for publication remains the end of October. Barbara B has received the articles from Jan O. Barbara will be completing her article this week.

Mantoloking Historical District

- The original intent of this project was to recognize the historic houses in town without putting any restrictions on the residents.
- Jan O. researched the relevant statutes and determined that even with the town's approval to proceed, we would need an ordinance to establish a historic district.



Oct. 24, 2023

Meeting Minutes No: 2023-10

- The likely result would be only a historic area sign entering town and a new ordinance that might allow certain restrictions on residents in the future.
- After a discussion about the limited net benefits of the project, the members voted not to proceed.

MEC Facebook Posts and Events since 8/22/2023 Meeting:

- 10/3: Showing of Drift: A Documentary on 10 /20 at Mantoloking Yacht Club
- 10/3: Reminder of Clean Ocean Action – “Beach Sweeps” on 10/21 at 9:00 am at Lyman St
- 10/3: Reminder of Ocean Wind 1 Construction update on 10/3 at 6:00 pm
- 10/16: Promotion of excess Medicine Drop Box in Borough Hall
- 10/16: Notice that damaged or worn American Flags can be disposed in the Flag Disposal Bin at Borough Hall
- 10/16: Notice of where excess reusable bags can be donated with a website link.

MEC Attended Educational Events:

- Showing of Drift: A Documentary 10/20 - Peter A., Jan O.
- ANJEC Environmental Congress Virtual: Tackling Climate Change in NJ Coastal Communities 10/17 – John M

Upcoming Events:

- Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon 11/14/23 in Atlantic City
- NJ Coastal and Climate Resilience Conference in March 14 – 16, 2024 Monmouth University sponsored by NJ DEP
- The NJ Sustainability in Motion Conference, March 6 – 8, 2024, Ceasars Atlantic City

New Topics:

- Barbara B. asked that all member bring their ideas for MEC 2024 goals to the next meeting.
- Jan O. brought up the idea that we could continue to educate the public about native plants that work here in Mantoloking and perhaps sponsor a public program next year.
- Peter A. brought up the names of 2 relatively new residents that may be interested in serving on the MEC. He will invite them to attend one of our upcoming meetings.
- Jan O. mentioned an interesting website, Birdcast.net that shows where all the birds are migrating.
- Jan also mentioned Haikubox, connected to Cornell University Ornithology, a device that can hear birds and then identify them. There is a device purchase involved and a membership fee for the app.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

The next MEC meeting will be in person at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, 11/28/2023 at 5:30 pm.