



October 26, 2021

Meeting Minutes No: 2021-10

## **MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **Meeting held at Mantoloking Borough Hall**

Attendance:

<b>MEC/Green Team Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
Haley Kardek	No
John Mooney	Yes
Beth Nelson	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
<b>Green Team Member</b>	
Jan O'Malley	Yes

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:32 PM. A quorum was present.

### **Meeting Minutes**

B. Turro made a motion to accept the September 2021 Meeting minutes, J. Mooney seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

### **Chairman Comments**

Haley Kardek officially has resigned from MEC to attend Law School. Haley did great work for the MEC and will be missed.

Peter Andruss has volunteered to be a Green Team member.

### **Green Team Business →**

- Fall Sustainable Jersey PSE&G Grant Cycle: According to Sustainable Jersey the grant cycle will be opened sometime in November with applications due in early 2022. MEC expects to apply, but we will have to reexamine the criteria. One thought offered by Beth N - explore whether, as a small borough, we could apply for joint projects with other municipalities.
- Certification expires Dec. 31, 2023: If we want to recertify, we should begin with actions next year to avoid a rush in 2023. Since we do not have a good handle on the requirements for recertification, Jan will do an assessment of the process. Barbara Benz will send her the current spreadsheet. MEC minutes will be a good source of activities. It was noted that Haley was the driving force behind the certification and she is no longer available.

### **MEC Business →**

#### **Planning Board**

- 915 Barnegat - MEC (B.Benz) sent a letter to the responsible NJDEP project managers on October 4 stating our strong opposition to this wetlands application. A follow up letter was sent on October 19 requesting a description of the NJDEP review process. The project manager responded with a detailed description of the process. Barbara B. read the letter to the members at the meeting.



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### **Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance**

- John W. reported that he is almost done trimming the bottoms of about 30 Crepe Myrtles in the DOT right of way along Route 35 (on the north end of town from Bay Head through Herbert St.)
- John also reported that residents are being cooperative with removing dead Japanese Black Pines, which are located primarily south of Albertson.

### **ANJEC Climate Change Bill Guidance**

- No update from ANJEC.

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

- Dennis Blazak from the Point Pleasant Borough Environmental Commission attended the meeting to offer guidance on how to proceed with our interest in the project. Dennis shared his vast experience with a variety of NJ shoreline resilience projects, including the Slade Dale Breakwater project in Point Pleasant for which he served as Project Champion.
- The first stage for a project is the development of a conceptual design and completion of the permitting process, which generally takes about 60 days. This phase must be funded. For the Slade Dale project Dennis secured \$4,000 from the Rotary Club to fund this phase. In a joint project each town must get a resolution from their Council, **so we would need two actions, 1) get Council approval from Mantoloking, Brick and Bay Head and 2) secure a funding source for the conceptual design.**
- Dennis reviewed the Swan Point situation with the American Littoral Society, the lead organization in Slade Dale, and they had a favorable view of its viability. He estimated the cost of the project to be between \$14,000 and \$25,000.
- Although the initial idea is the installation of an oyster array (cages), a conceptual design by ALS with scientists at Stockton University would probably offer 2 or 3 approaches to submit to NJDEP and the Army Corps for approval.

### **MEC Facebook Since Last Meeting**

- Event:
  - 10/12 Beach Sweep
- Posts since our last MEC meeting:
  - Beach Sweep photos
  - Patty Brand Garden
  - Perennial garden photo
  - Police boat arrival
  - Maintenance of Crepe Myrtles by J. Wesson on 10/1 and 10/8



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**Updates on other 2021 Initiatives:**

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Initiative Description &amp; Updates</b>	<b>Owner(s)</b>
Spring 2022	<p><b><i>Walking Tour</i></b> combining Green Stormwater Management Education with Native Gardens Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>No change made to the plan to revisit holding this event in the Spring.</i></b></li><li>• Ideas as to future Walking Tours:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Information on rain barrels, rain gardens, porous groundcover, etc. would be dispensed at each location.</li><li>○ Locations could potentially include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Albertson (John Wesson's property)</li><li>▪ Claudia Larsen property</li><li>▪ Patty Brand Memorial Garden</li><li>▪ Kellogg property on Channel that includes Osprey nesting structures</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	Beth Barbara T.
Fall	<p><b><i>OC Northern Recycling Center Tour</i></b> for MEC/Green Team members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Barbara T. contacted the Recycling Center to determine whether tours are now being given. They are on hold until further notice.</i></b></li></ul>	Beth, Barbara T.
Fall	<p><b><i>Environmental Basics Residential Pamphlet.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>The priority for this work remains below that of the Fall Newsletter.</i></b></li><li>• <b><i>Barbara B. indicated that she needs to give Todd Morgano, Mantoloking's Construction Code Official to ask him his opinion on topics to be included and talk about the distribution process.</i></b></li><li>• The pamphlet will be distributed as following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mantoloking Reporter</li><li>○ Mantoloking Ready (501 people are registered to receive these notifications; there were 497 homes in Mantoloking as of 2/1/21)</li><li>○ Facebook and Borough Website</li><li>○ Physical version available to residents in Borough Hall (Zoning Office?)</li></ul></li><li>• Include information:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Benefits of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Native plants (pollinators)</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	Denise, Barbara B.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environmentally sensitive lawns (inclusive of their connection to stormwater management &amp; nonpoint source pollution)</li> <li>○ Pool Drainage Tips</li> <li>○ Irrigation Systems and their impact on the environment</li> <li>○ Not clearing out pollinators in the Fall by not cleaning up your gardens</li> </ul>	
Fall	<p><b>MEC/Green Team Newsletter</b> – Fall Edition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barbara B. will focus primarily on this project over the next month.</b></li> <li>• Topics to be included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MyCoast Data collection</li> <li>○ Swan Point Oyster Array</li> <li>○ Police Boat Update</li> <li>○ New Recycling Rules</li> <li>○ Pool drainage; back washing of the pool</li> <li>○ Protecting Pollinators in the Fall by not “cleaning up your gardens”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Barbara B.
10/23/21	<p><b>Beach Clean-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beach Clean-up on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> was a success with 17 people participating.</b></li> <li>• Debris was primarily plastics, particularly plastic bottle caps.</li> <li>• Data cards were filled out consistently allowing a straightforward compilation for <b>Clean Ocean Action</b>.</li> <li>• We expect to continue our participation with their <b>Beach Sweeps</b> program.</li> </ul>	Barbara B.
Early Spring 2022	<p><b>Pollinating Plants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the unavailability of seed packets in late spring/early summer 2021, we will pursue purchasing these packets early next spring.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Milkweed seeds are likely what we will seek given Monarch Butterflies are attracted to them.</li> <li>○ Since the Black Swallowtail butterfly is very common here as well, we should consider seeds that would be attractive to them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Barbara T., Beth

**New Topics:**

- None raised



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### **Attended Educational Events:**

- Anjec Environmental Congress (Zoom) : **Stormwater Management: Challenges and Solutions**, attended by Barbara B and John M, **Tools for Climate Action** attended by Barbara B and John M, **Social Media Tools for Environmental Commissions**, attended by Barbara B.
- The annual national land conservation conference of the Land Trust Alliance had a presentation: **Storms and Floods: Talking with Conservatives about Water and Climate**, a joint presentation of the Watershed Institute and C-Change Conversations. The presentation discussed the convergence of climate change effects with conservation, water issues and health. John M. viewed it on the C-Change Conversations website.
- As an aside C-Change Conversations has developed a Primer on the Health Effects of Climate Change that we will include in our 2022 Educational plan.

### **Upcoming Educational Events:**

- ANJEC: **Plastic Pollution Reduction Law Begins: Are you ready?**, Zoom Webinar, Thursday 11/4 at 12 Noon.
- **Native Plant Society of New Jersey (NPSNJ) Annual Fall Conference**, 11/6 Saturday, register at [npsnj.org](http://npsnj.org).
- Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS) through Rutgers Cooperative Extension - **Status and Future of NJ Tidal Marshes in the face of Sea Level Rise** by Dr. Judith Weis (Rutgers University); 11/29 6:30-8 pm; register at <http://go.rutgers.edu/eatjnrfn>.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:36 pm. **Our next meeting is on Tues., 11/30/21 at 5:30 pm.**