



December 22, 2020

Meeting Minutes No: 2020-12

## **MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **Meeting took place via Zoom**

Attendance:

<b>MEC/Green Team Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Brad Batcha (liaison; Member Borough Environmental Committee)	No
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
D'Arcy Green (liaison; Chair Borough Environmental Committee)	No
Haley Kardek	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 5:30 PM.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Haley Kardek made a motion to approve the November 2020 Meeting Minutes. Barbara Turro seconded the motion. These minutes had been distributed 12/5/20 at 4:22 PM.

### **Green Team Business →**

One hundred fifty-five points were approved by Sustainable Jersey as per an email in mid-December. As a result, bronze certification was earned. We are awaiting further information (to be mailed mid-January) on the certification itself. Whether Sustainable Jersey will provide signage noting our certification is unclear at this time.

- Natural Resource Inventory: The letter submitted on letterhead from Joseph Coronato, the Planning Board Attorney, was NOT accepted as evidence of the Planning Board utilizing the ERI in its decision making. Points were therefore not awarded
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance: Twenty points were awarded for our work in this area.

### **MEC Business →**

- **The Protection and Health of the Land**
  - **Japanese Black Pines** – As reported by John, most of the dead pines left are on homeowners' property. Given the need to bring borough properties in compliance with the new ordinance, both Lance and Stacy need to contact these homeowners. John has made Mayor White aware that he is willing to cut down some of the larger trees but someone else would need to be responsible for hauling off the wood.
  - **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant**



- No feedback has been received in response to the final report that was submitted on 11/6/20.
- Given this lack of feedback, we're under assumption that the \$68 in surplus money from the grant will be used as indicated in the report. It'll be used in the spring to replace any plants that didn't survive.
- **The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay**
  - **Beach Cleanup**
    - While there still exists a desire to coordinate this with Clean Ocean Action, at this point Barbara B. has not heard back from anyone. She will continue to attempt to reach out to Cindy Zipf, the Executive Director.
    - A date will be selected in March once Barbara B. has contacted Scott Hulse to coordinate with the municipality.
- **Other Business:**
  - **Year-End Report:** The final version of the 2020 MEC/Green Team Annual Report was approved with one minor addition – Barbara T. also had attended the Stormwater Management Webinar on 12/2/20.
  - **MEC Membership:**
    - Any new members need to be Mantoloking residents and have the support of the Mayor in that he will need to appoint him/her.
    - Joan M. has declined joining the MEC but has indicated a willingness to participate in further events.
    - Further brainstorming took place as to other potential members:
      - Barbara B. had been attempting to reach one individual (as recommended by Beth) but the phone numbers in the Blue Book aren't good. Beth offered another cell number which Barbara will try.
      - John noted another individual who he will speak to.
- **2021 Goals:**
  - After much discussion between the November meeting and this gathering, the following tentative goals were identified: *(to be further discussed in January)*
    - Organize a beach clean-up in March hopefully in conjunction with Clean Water Action.
      - Possibly couple this with an educational event on protecting rare/endangered plants (Seabeach amaranth) and wildlife (Piping Plovers)?
    - With the agreement of the Zoning Office, provide a "pamphlet" to residents that outlines applicable environmental basics when they apply for landscape or related permits.
      - Contained in this handout would be information on the benefits of native planting and environmentally sensitive lawns (inclusive of their connection to stormwater management & nonpoint source pollution) and pool drainage tips.
    - *(Not discussed at meeting)* Publish a MEC/Green Team Newsletter in both the Spring and Fall that highlights any/all issues of environmental concern to Mantoloking. Make available via:
      - Facebook
      - Mantoloking Reporter



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- Blogtrottr
- Publish on Environmental page of Mantoloking.org
- Create a recycling mailer whose intent is to educate residents on recycling rules.
- Pursue recycling compliance and rejection stickers being placed on residence cans.
- Organize a tour for MEC/Green Team members (and interested residents?) of the OC Northern Recycling Center.
- Organize a series of educational walks at the following possible destinations: *(What would be the educational focus for each destination? Aka birding, local flora and/or fauna? Would we be able to piggyback on experts local to the respective destination? Team with other local environmental commissions?)*
  - Patty Brand Memorial Garden inclusive of a visit to the Kellogg property Osprey nestings?
  - Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge trail at the corner of Mantoloking Rd. and Adamston Rd., Brick, NJ.
  - Cattus Island County Park, Toms River, NJ.
  - Double Trouble State Park, Bayville, NJ
- Fall mailing/emailing of information regarding environmentally safe pool drainage.
- Facebook postings that support our environmental agenda.
- Educational table with “give away” at July 4<sup>th</sup> town-wide event.
- Host a Climate Change presentation/educational event.
- Work with other local environmental commissions on various events where common goals exist.
- Green stormwater management solution education event and/or mailer inclusive of rain barrels, rain gardens, porous groundcover, etc.
- Continue to work with borough to encourage use of ERI recommendations on the part of the Planning Board and overall decision making.
- Explore specifics surrounding bringing back the Mantoloking Historic District.
- Continue pursuit of eliminating dead pines from borough.
- Complete Roots for Rivers plantings thereby utilizing surplus left over from fall planting.
- **Communication:**
  - MEC FB page has continued to be updated. Please continue to send to Barbara B. anything you think is appropriate for posting. (Barbara B./Denise)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:38 pm. **Our next meeting is on Tues., 1/26/21 at 5:30 pm.**