



October 27, 2020

Meeting Minutes No: 2020-10

## **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
Connie Pilling	No
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	No
<b>Green Team Member</b>	
Jan O'Malley	Yes

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

Barbara Turro made a motion to approve the September 2020 Meeting Minutes. Beth Nelson seconded the motion. These minutes had been distributed 09/29/20 at 8:14 PM.

### **Green Team Business →**

- Sustainable Jersey Application:
  - 135 points were approved. Therefore 15 more points are required by the next & last submittal date on 11/22/20.
  - Animals in the Community (10 pts) APPROVED
  - Green Challenges (10 pts) MUST REVISE
    - Feedback requested documentation of a 2.5% population participation rate in the Water Audit Challenge. Given that these 10 points won't be enough to earn certification, we are not focusing on this particular action in the coming month.
  - Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risks (20 pts) APPROVED
  - Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies (10 pts) APPROVED
  - Natural Resource Inventory (20 pts) MUST REVISE
    - Feedback requested a written document on township letterhead indicating our plan for working with the Planning Board prior to the Master Plan being revisited in 2027.
    - Barbara B. will email Jane White requesting this letter. (done)
    - Strategically, we need either this action or the Recycling & Waste Reduction Education and Compliance Action to be approved in order to receive our certification.



- Digitizing Public Information (10 pts) APPROVED
- Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government (15 pts) APPROVED
- Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal (10 pts) APPROVED
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance (20 pts) MUST REVISE
  - Feedback requested a report on the number & results of recycling compliance inspections prepared & certified by the municipal recycling coordinator.
  - Joy Bragen-Edly is the Recycling Coordinator but accordingly just for commercial recycling, not residential.
  - Haley will contact Beverley Konopada to get to the bottom of this issue.
  - Strategically, this is the action that we're most likely to successfully complete.
- Next application deadline is Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **MEC Business →**

- **The Protection and Health of the Land**
  - **Japanese Black Pines** – Prior to the meeting, John texted with an update. “Since the last meeting, I have removed one pine tree on 35 in front of my home, 3 from the lot in front of the power station, and a huge one at the Burke property. So the effort now needs to focus on the route 35 trees.”
  - **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant**
    - Beth is working with April to account for the grant money.
      - Most of the plants required two bunny guards because of their size.
      - Initially Beth had offered to pay for incremental plants/bunny guards beyond the budgeted amount but then the bill was less than anticipated. The invoice for this order was then processed independent of the grant money. The question is therefore how to reassign these dollars to the grant.
      - Setting this issue aside, there still exists a surplus of approximately \$106 of grant money. It was suggested that possibly two more bayberries could be purchased.
    - Haley is working on the formal grant report that is due on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.
      - Photos are needed of the three planting locations from the same perspective of the original photos submitted as part of the grant application.
      - Haley will send her final version to Beth for her edits/input.
      - Haley also indicated that she would post on the MEC FB site a “Thank you” to everyone who helped with the watering:
        - Joe, Odette, & Haley Kardek took care of Lyman.
        - Jan & Beth watered Downer.
        - Peter Amdruss took care of Princeton.



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- **The Protection and Health of the Ocean and Barnegat Bay**
  - **Beach Cleanup**
    - We will plan a beach clean-up for the spring in coordination with Scott Hulse. Barbara B. will contact him to determine when the borough starts to clean the beach.
    - Barbara B. will also contact Clean Ocean Action and attempt to coordinate this event with them. Cindy Zipf is the Executive Director.  
(Completed...email sent on 11/3/20 to info@cleanoceanaction.org)
- **Other Business:**
  - Year-End Report
    - Barbara B. has been working on a draft and will circulate to all MEC/Green Team members prior to our Nov. MEC meeting for their feedback.
    - It should be completed prior to the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting so that it can be placed on the agenda. Once completed and approved by the team, Barbara B. will: (1) request that Ed O'Malley post it on the municipal website; and (2) contact Beverley in order to place it on the 12/15/20 Council Agenda if at all possible.
  - Potential MEC Vacancy: It was suggested that Joan Mattia, who is an active member of the Seaweeder's, would be an excellent addition to the team. She may have also been a member of the MEC at one point.
  - Police Boat: Jan will follow-up on where the town is relative to purchasing a new police boat.
  - 2021 Goals: A number of potential goals/events were mentioned. This should continue to be fleshed out in Nov./Dec. and finalized by January.
    - Beach clean-up in the spring.
    - Adopt ordinances on promoting renewable energy.
    - Education on a "Cut It and Leave It" Program.
    - Educational event on using native plants in spring plantings.
      - Combine this event potentially with a walk that starts at Downer, heads north to Lyman, then further north to Bergen (and the Patty Brand Memorial Garden), and possibly ending at the park setup on the Kellogg's property where the Ospreys nest.
      - Jersey Friendly Yards would potentially like to help with a Barrier Island version of this.
    - Setup planters for caterpillars and in turn encourage the butterfly population.
    - Circulate information on how to protect plants from cicadas. This year is supposed to be a big year for them. Joan Mattia wrote an article on this very topic for the Seaweeder's. Beth will inquire with Joan as to whether it can be forwarded to the MEC/Green Team.
    - Setup a MEC/Green Team Tour of the Brick Recycling Center.



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- **Future Events:**

- 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Watershed Conference series of Webinars starting Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> through Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Follow the link in the email to register. The cost is \$20 and if you'd like to be reimbursed, please let Barbara B. know so it likewise can be coordinated with April.
- NJ Tidal Marshes and Sea Level Rise Webinar on 11/16/20, 12 pm – 1 pm offered by the Rutgers NJ Climate Change Resource Center. An email was sent out with a link to register for this event if you're interested.

- **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 6:25 pm. **Our next meeting is on Mon., 11/23/20 at 5:30 pm.** Please note the change in the schedule due to Thanksgiving.