



2023 MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/GREEN TEAM YEAR END REPORT

The Environmental Commission and Green Team have once again had an extremely busy year. We continue to encourage resident participation in our meetings and activities. Along these lines, our meeting schedule continues to be posted on Facebook, published in the Ocean Star Calendar for Mantoloking, on the Borough web site, and is also distributed via Civic Ready. The EC portion of the Borough website, <https://www.mantoloking.org/environmental-commission>, continues to be updated with our latest newsletters, events, and environmental updates inclusive of recycling news, and Household Hazardous Waste & Shredding Events.

Following encapsulates our work during 2023:

Progress as Measured Against 2023 Goals

Pursue re-establishing the Mantoloking Historic District

The original intent of this work was to recognize the historic houses in town without putting any restrictions on the owners. A legal memo was produced by the Borough Lawyer outlining the pros and cons of reestablishing a historic district. This in combination with research performed by Jan O'Malley, resulted in a reassessment of this 2023 Goal by the MEC. After much discussion about the limited net benefits – a historic area sign when you enter town – the members voted in Oct. to not proceed with this objective.

Maintain and Preserve the Patty Brand Memorial Shoreline and Garden

The Patty Brand Memorial Garden is the only non-beach community green space that exists in Mantoloking and is composed “mostly” of native species. The MEC/Green Team therefore has committed itself and the Borough to the ongoing maintenance and preservation of this space.

Scott Hulse's DPW Team, using a combination of Clean Communities and EC funding, has paid for plantings. They perform overall basic maintenance although a local neighbor and Seaweed Garden Club Member, Joan Mattia, continues to volunteer her time to weed the garden.

Support Swan Point Preservation Efforts/Partner With and Support Other Environmental Organizations

The MEC continues to communicate with various organizations including the Brick Engineer and the NJDEP, who owns Swan Point State Natural Area, regarding its restoration and preservation. Brick has received a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Grant into which the Swan Point project might fit. Ongoing effort continues in determining what preservation/restoration of this area is allowed by the NJDEP.

Complete Existing Grant Work

The MEC applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from PSE&G Sustainable Jersey on 2/11/22. As per the grant application, this money was used for a number of different items related to 2022 goals. With one exception -- development of a residential pamphlet designed to provide environmental advice for living on a barrier peninsula – all work was completed in 2022.



Titled, "Borough of Mantoloking's Guide to Living in Harmony with our Environment", the guide was printed and distributed in May 2023 along with the Blue Books and the Mantoloking Residential Guide. It's intended as a guide to living an environmentally conscious lifestyle and includes information on:

- What Can We Do?
 - Prevent Stormwater Runoff of Pollutants
 - Scoop the Poop
 - Use Native Plants
 - Be a Smart Pool Owner
 - Turn Off Your Exterior Lights
 - Recycle
- Use of the Recycle Coach App
- Utilize Green Infrastructure in the Site Design and Layout of Homes
 - Minimize Impervious Surfaces
 - Install a Rain Barrel
 - Include a Rain Garden
 - Include a Green Roof in Home Design
- Use Less Fertilizer
- Use Insecticide Alternatives
 - Environmentally Friendly Weed Killer Recipe
- Mulch Your Grass
- Mow Less Often and with an Electric Mower
- Compost Your Food Scraps
- Use of the EPA Tool for determining the condition of local waterways

The Final Grant Report was completed and submitted by 5/31/23.

Feasibility Study on EV Charging Stations

NJ has committed to a goal of 100% Clean Energy by 2050. Along these lines, the Global Warming Response Act (N.J.S.A. 26:2C-37) calls for a reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2006 levels by 2050. The MEC/Green Team therefore recognizes the need to provide EV charging stations in response to the increase in EV drivers on the road. The EC is committed to initiating a study to determine the feasibility of doing so in Mantoloking. Although no work supporting this initiative occurred in 2023, the MEC continues to recognize this need for EV charging stations and will potentially pursue this in 2024.

Expand MEC/Green Team Education, Outreach and Membership

Membership

With Beth Nelson's resignation in May, the EC/Green Team now encompasses eight individuals with three of those people being Green Team members only. The Team is continually looking for new members.

MEC/Green Team Newsletter



With the goal of continued communication with our residents, two newsletters were produced this year: a summer and fall edition.

The Summer Edition was published on the Borough website and distributed via Civic Ready and the Mantoloking Reporter in early July. It covered the following topics:

- Regular sections:
 - Upcoming Events
 - Recycling News and Tips:
 - Use of Recycle Coach
 - Recycling News and Tips including information on the 3 'R's
- Special Features:
 - The Patty Brand Memorial Garden
 - Photos from April 22nd Seedling Distribution and Barnegat Bay Blitz Events
 - Mantoloking's Police Boat

The Fall Edition was published in the beginning of October and was distributed in the same manner as the summer edition. It included:

- Regular sections:
 - Upcoming Events
 - Recycling News and Tips:
 - Use of Recycle Coach
 - How to NOT Contaminate Your Recyclables
- Special Features:
 - Minimizing the Proliferation of Jellyfish
 - Alarming Statistics About Monarch Butterflies and How We Can Help

July 4th Recycling Education

The MEC/Green Team setup a table in the MYC driveway during the July 4th Townwide celebration. In addition to the typical posters, we setup information as to native and pollinating plants, upcoming events, and membership. A Recycle Game was developed by John Wesson whereby residents were challenged with determining whether specific items could be recycled or not. Throughout the event 11:30 – 1:30, the MEC/Green Team encouraged people to properly classify items as recyclable or garbage and in return they received a prize. Prizes consisted of bubbles, seed packets, reusable straws, and/or reusable bags. The game was a huge success and was extremely educational for all who participated. We are therefore considering doing something similar in 2024.

MEC Facebook Posts

MEC's Facebook page has continued to be a major means of communicating with our residents and local community. Approximately 40 posts took place that covered a wide range of topics including:

- All MEC Events, Monthly Meetings, general EC information, and event photos
- Christmas Tree Disposal
- Proper disposal of unwanted prescriptions/over-the-counter medications
- Proper Disposal of American Flags



- Free Webinars on Gardening for Pollinators and Songbirds and NJ Audubon webinar series on making outdoor space inviting to wildlife
- Cautions as to the use of ice melt products and environmentally friendly alternatives
- Barnegat Bay Partnership/BMUA free webinar on deicers and the environment
- Event posts for Beach Sweeps, MEC/Green Team Meetings, Barnegat Bay Blitz, NJ Tree Recovery Seedling Distribution, July 4th MEC Play the Recycle Game, DRIFT showings
- Lion's Mane Jellyfish in Barnegat Bay
- Five planet alignment on 3/28
- Proper Boat Flare Disposal and updates as to postponement of event
- Save Barnegat Bay's STEM Summer Series
- Native Plants as per Jersey Friendly Yards
- Ocean County Parks and Rec Walking Stick Creation Workshop
- Update on Document Shredding
- Ocean Wind 1 Construction Update Meeting
- Notice of where excess reusable bags can be donated

Other 2023 Endeavors

Mantoloking Town Clean-ups

The Mantoloking EC and Green Team is committed to working with outside organizations who are willing to help market and sponsor clean-ups in our borough. As with all EC events, they are advertised via the Ocean Star, Facebook, and emails that go out using the Civic Ready and Mantoloking Reporter platforms.

Beach

Two beach clean-ups occurred this year on **April 15th** and **Oct. 21st**. Working in conjunction with **Clean Ocean Action**, Peter Andruss took on the role of Beach Captain in both the spring and fall. For both events, participants were scheduled in two waves at the Lyman Beach Street Entrance and cleanup encompassed nearly 100% of our 2.3 miles of beach in addition to many beach access paths.

Bay

As part of our Earth Day Events, the Barnegat Bay Blitz took place in Mantoloking on April **22nd**. Working with the **Barnegat Bay Partnership**, participants met and started their cleanup at the Patty Brand Memorial Garden on Bergen Ave. Approximately 15 people spread out from there and cleaned up bay street ends, Barnegat Lane, and large portions of Route 35.

Screenings of DRIFT

Save Barnegat Bay's 50th Anniversary Film, DRIFT, is a documentary that tells the story of Barnegat Bay through the voices of those who cherish the Bay as a natural, recreational, and economic resource for the local community and all of New Jersey. The MEC therefore decided to host screenings of the film both on Aug. 18th and Oct. 20th. Held at the Mantoloking Yacht Club, both showings were open to the public and widely advertised both via email and in the Ocean Star.

The Aug. Screening attracted 46 attendees. An introduction was provided by Save Barnegat Bay members followed by a discussion lead by local resident and Save Barnegat Bay President, Willie



deCamp, as to topics related to the film. The MEC had such positive feedback relative to the educational benefit of this film that it was decided to show it again in Oct. Therefore, a second screening took place on Oct. 20th with 17 people in attendance.

Removal of Dead/Dying Black Pines and Crepe Myrtle Maintenance

John Wesson has continued to put in many hours of his time monitoring the health and pruning/removal of Japanese Black Pines, Crepe Myrtles, and Cherry Trees along the Ocean Ave. right-of-way and adjacent to the power station on the south end of town. This work removes growth that would otherwise block passageways and overall, helps keep our borough beautiful.

DEP/Land Use Board

In order to better communicate with the Land Use Board regarding environmental advice on requested variances, a process was devised whereby the MEC communicates with the Board on any environmental concerns the MEC might have with proposed variances. After being unanimously adopted during the June MEC/Green Team Meeting as a part of Resolution 2023-01, this protocol was embedded in the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI).

As of yet, the hearing(s) relative to accepting the ERI and its adoption as a part of the amended Master Plan Re-Examination Report have yet to be scheduled.

NJ Community Tree Seedling Distribution

Scheduled for Earth Day, Sat., April 22nd between 9 AM and 11 AM, 222 native seedlings (provided by the DEP NJ Forest Service Nursery) were distributed to the local community from Borough Hall. Approximately 15 families took advantage of this program.

Education

- ANJEC Webinars:
 - ANJEC Environmental Commission Roundtable: Electric Vehicles in NJ, Jan. 24. Attended by Barbara B. and Peter A.
 - ANJEC Climate Series: Offshore Research & Monitoring, May 31. Attended by Barbara T.
 - ANJEC Environmental Congress Virtual: Tackling Climate Change in NJ Coastal Communities, 10/17. Attended by John M
- Rutgers educational events:
 - Advancing NJ Climate Goals with Transportation Infrastructure Investments, NJ Climate Change Resource Center, Rutgers, Jan. 20. Attended by Barbara T. and Barbara B.
 - NJ EPR Teach in Webinar – Beyond Plastics – Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center, Feb. 23. Attended by John M.
 - NJ EPR Teach in Webinar – Reduce Plastic Pollution and Save Taxpayer Money, Feb. 23. Attended by Barbara T.
 - Rutgers 2023 Coastal Stewardship Course; Tuesday evenings 7 – 9 PM from May 30 through August 8. Attended by John M.
 - Rutgers University Marine Field Station Open House, Sept.16. Attended by Jan O.
- Save Barnegat Bay:



- Showings of Save Barnegat Bay's 50th Anniversary Film: DRIFT, 8/18 and 10/20. Attended by Peter A., Jan O., John W.
- Gardening for Pollinators and Songbirds, NJ Audubon, Jan. 18. Attended by Jan O.
- Clean Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, and Rapid Decarbonization in the PJM Region, Feb. 10. Attended by John M.
- A Climate Change Primer presented by Kathleen Biggins, President and Founder of Climate Change Conversations, March 13. Attended by Beth N. and Barbara B.
- Easy Care Perennials throughout the year for the Seashore, March 16. Attended by Barbara T.
- Planting your Garden with Native Plants, Monmouth County Native Plant Society, May. Attended by Beth N.
- Microplastics Webinar, April 24. Attended by John M.

2023 Membership

As of December 2023, the Mantoloking Environmental Commission/Green Team consists of eight members, three of which are Green Team Members only. Beth Nelson resigned effective May 31st.

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| MEC Team Members | |
| Barbara Hood Benz, Chair | Chair |
| Denise Boughton | |
| John Mooney | |
| Beth Nelson | Resigned as of 5/31 |
| Barbara Turro | |
| John Wesson | Planning Board Liaison |
| Green Team Members | |
| Peter Andruss | |
| Ann Colie | |
| Jan O'Malley | |

2023 MEC/Green Team Meeting Schedule

- Meetings at Borough Hall in conjunction with teleconference: Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, May 23, Jun. 27, Jul. 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28.
- The April and December meetings were cancelled.