



## **2022 MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION/GREEN TEAM YEAR END REPORT**

The Environmental Commission and Green Team has once again had an extremely busy year. We continue to encourage resident participation in our meetings. Along these lines, our meeting schedule continues to be posted on Facebook and published in the Ocean Star Calendar for Mantoloking and our monthly meeting agenda is 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 2022:

### **Progress as Measured Against 2022 Goals**

#### **Climate Change Educational Event**

As part of our overall goal to educate residents as to climate change and the relationship to their health, the MEC engaged Kathleen Biggins, founder of C-Change Conversations, a Princeton nonprofit. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, approximately 20 people attended an outdoor reception followed by a presentation in the Steve Gillingham Meeting Room at Borough Hall. In addition to local community members, the Brick Township and Point Borough ECs attended the event and were treated to an intelligent science-based presentation on climate change and how it affects our health and well-being in Ocean County.

Funded by the 2022 Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant, advertising included the Ocean Star, Facebook, engagement with other EC orgs in the area (including Bay Head), Civic Ready and Mantoloking Reporter emails, posters placed at the Beach Badge Shack on Downer, the PO, & the Firehouse Announcement Board, and overall word of mouth.

#### **Water Quality Educational Event**

Through funding from the 2022 Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant, the EC/Green Team was able to host speaker, Diane Lewis, on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sacred Heart Church in Bay Head. Dr. Diane Lewis is an environmental activist whose seminar, the Great Healthy Yard Project, was witnessed by 32 attendees. The seminar focused on gardening without chemicals to improve the quality of our water and the health of our community.

Advertising included the same avenues as the Climate Change Educational Event noted above.

#### **Update Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)**

The EC/Green Team published the Second Edition of the ERI in December 2022; it was originally created and published in January 2020. Jan O'Malley served as the editor in chief.

Considered to be an important tool for governing bodies, ECs, planning boards, and zoning boards of adjustment, an ERI (or Index of Natural Resources) is a compilation of text, tables, maps, and other visual information about the natural resource characteristics and environmentally significant features of an area. Mantoloking's version provides a brief history of Mantoloking, a discussion of its natural and man-made resources, as well as providing some recommendations to the Planning Board (combines the roles and responsibilities of Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment) and to Borough Council.



It is recommended by the EC/Green Team that the Planning Board adopt the ERI as part of the municipal master plan, either as an appendix or as a part of a master plan conservation element.

### **Sustainable Jersey Bronze Recertification**

Bronze certification through December 2025 was once again, after many hours of work, earned by the Mantoloking EC/Green Team for the Borough of Mantoloking.

Mantoloking's prior certification was in effect through December 2023. However as recommended by Sustainable Jersey, a decision was made to reapply in 2022 thus extending our certification through 2025. Therefore, on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and again on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 155 points worth of actions covering the following topics were submitted: (150 points are required for certification)

- Animals in the Community (10 pts)
- Community Education & Outreach (15 pts)
- Create a Green Team (10 pts)
- Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risks (20 pts)
- Emergency Communications Planning (15 pts)
- Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies (10 pts)
- Environmental Commission (10 pts)
- Digitizing Public Information (10 pts)
- Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government (15 pts)
- Municipal Communications Strategy (10 pts)
- Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal (10 pts)
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance (20 pts)

### **Support Swan Point Preservation Efforts**

The MEC continues to communicate with the Brick and Point Pleasant Borough Environmental Commissions regarding the preservation of Swan Point. Aerial photos had been taken showing the shore reliction over time, demonstrating the need for this work. At present, funding sources are being gathered and the American Littoral Society (ALS) has gotten involved; a grant application was submitted to the NJDEP in August 2022. It's also likely that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) may get involved given its proximity to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. A hybrid living shoreline, inclusive of oyster cage arrays to lessen wave energy and coir logs, is being considered. The MEC stands ready to help in any way we can.

### **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. Along these lines, the EC is committed to initiating a study to determine the feasibility of doing so in Mantoloking. Although no work supporting this initiative occurred this year, this goal will be carried over into 2023.



## **Residential Native Plant and Pollinator Education**

The many benefits of using native plants and pollinators were communicated to Mantoloking's residents and community at large via newsletter articles and the following two events:

### **Back Dune Planting, Pollination, and Dune Education**

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, ten 2-gallon Seaside Golden Rod were planted at each of three back dune locations at Downer, Princeton, and Lyman. Funded by the Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant received in May 2022, participants were given a brief educational talk on the benefits of flowering native pollinating plants and dune stabilization.

### **Native and Pollinating Plants Education**

The MEC/Green Team setup a table in the MYC driveway during the July 4<sup>th</sup> Townwide celebration. Posters were setup with information on native and pollinating plants in addition to general EC information on upcoming events and membership. Throughout the event 11:30 – 1:30, EC/Green Team members handed out 180 native pollinating seed packets to residents walking by and spoke to them about the importance of using native plants and of pollinators in particular for the butterfly and bee population. These seed packets were funded by the 2022 Sustainable Jersey PSEG Grant.

## **Expand MEC/Green Team outreach and membership**

### **Membership**

Green Team Resolution #2022-01 was voted on and unanimously passed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, thus adding Ann Colie Lewis to our Green Team ranks. The Green Team now encompasses nine individuals and the EC (which is a subset of the Green Team) is composed of six people.

### **MEC/Green Team Newsletter**

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

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

- Regular sections:
  - Upcoming Events
  - Recycling News and Tips:
    - Use of Recycle Coach
    - Recycling Contamination Issues
    - BagUpNJ and Skip the Straw campaigns
- Special Features:
  - Breaking the Habit of Single Use Plastics
  - Protecting the Bay Using Native Plants and Safe Alternatives to Herbicides and Pesticides
  - Keeping our Waterways Safe with the Mantoloking Police Boat



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

- Regular sections:
  - Upcoming Events
  - Recycling News and Tips:
    - Use of Recycle Coach
    - Take Aways from OC Northern Recycling Center Tour
    - The “Reuse” of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”
    - Recycling Metal in Ocean County
- Special Features:
  - Readyng our Gardens for Winter
  - Light Pollution and Dark Skies
  - Butterfly Friendly Gardens
  - Climate Change and our Health

### **MEC Facebook Posts**

MEC’s Facebook page has continued to be a major means of communicating with our residents and local community. Over 80 posts took place that covered a wide range of topics included but not limited to:

- All MEC Events, Monthly Meetings, general EC information, and event photos
- Stabilization of Patty Brand Memorial Garden shoreline
- Pt Pleasant Beach Shade Tree commission, Save Barnegat Bay, Watershed Institute, and Bay Head events
- Swan Point updates and aerial photos
- Recycled Content Bill
- Jersey Native Plants Program Bill Updates
- Christmas Tree Disposal
- Single Use Plastic Straw Law, NJ plastic bag ban, and Recycle Beyond the Bag Promotion
- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- The Great Backyard Bird Count, Merlin Bird ID App, Bird Migration Alert
- Save Visitation Woods
- Climate NJ 2021 Annual Report
- Information on Southern Pine Beetles and Spotted Lantern Flies
- Happy Earth Day
- Photos of local swan parents and cygnets, Great Blue herons, and egrets
- Proper disposal of unwanted prescriptions/over-the-counter medications
- Mosquito Control
- Native and pollination plant information; photos of local natives; where to purchase locally; milkweed plantings to help Monarchs
- NJ Climate Change Alliance
- NASA’s climate spiral depicting global warming
- Crepe Myrtle, Cherry Tree, and Black Pine Maintenance along Rt 35 Right-of-way
- Ending Balloon Releases in NJ
- Proper Disposal of American Flags
- Dune Grass availability for residents



## **Other 2022 Endeavors**

### **Sustainable Jersey PSE&G Grant**

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 and will be used for a number of different items related to our goals for the year:

- Pollinator seed packets, used as a part of the Native and Pollinating Plants education event on **7/4/22**.
- Thirty Seaside Goldenrod, that were planted during the Back Dune Planting and Native Plant Education on **6/11/22**.
- The development of a residential pamphlet designed to provide environmental advice for living on a barrier peninsula. Work on this particular project will commence in January 2023.
- Speaker fee for the Science of Climate Change and its Relationship to Your Health Education Event on **8/17/22**.
- Speaker fee and hall rental for the Great Healthy Yard Project Educational Seminar

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>** and **Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Working in conjunction with **Clean Ocean Action**, Barbara Benz took on the role of Beach Captain in the spring and Peter Andruss did so in the fall. In both cases, 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**

Working with the **Barnegat Bay Partnership**, the Barnegat Bay Blitz took place in Mantoloking on **June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Meeting at the Patty Brand Memorial Garden on Bergen Ave., participants cleaned up the lagoon areas, South Lagoon, and bay street ends south towards Herbert St.

### **Removal of Dead/Dying Black Pines and Crepe Myrtle Maintenance**

John Wesson has continued to put in many hours of his time in 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. In March, he removed approximately three truckloads of Crepe Myrtle branches pruned along Ocean Ave. This work removes growth that would otherwise block passageways and overall, helps keep our borough beautiful.



### **DEP/Planning Board**

Starting this year, the MEC has started evaluating variance requests for environmental impact and providing advice accordingly. This practice commenced as a result of a change in practice, at our request, on the part of the Construction Department. Along with the homeowner's attorney and/or the homeowner him/herself, the MEC is now receiving Letters of Completeness from the Mantoloking Zoning Official once all required material has been submitted relative to a variance request. In order to better communicate with the Planning Board regarding this advice, a process is being devised whereby we communicate our thoughts ahead of time with the contact(s) noted on the Letter of Completeness (homeowner and/or attorney), the Planning Board Secretary, and the Borough Clerk to disseminate appropriately.

### **Tour of Ocean County Northern Recycling Center**

Six members of the EC and Green Team toured the Ocean County Northern Recycling Center on **August 18<sup>th</sup>**. In 2021, 87,000 tons of material was processed through this facility. Other learnings from this tour were shared with our residents in the Fall Newsletter.

### **NJ Community Tree Seedling Distribution**

Scheduled for Earth Day, Fri., **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** between 11 AM and 2 PM, 100 native seedlings (provided by the DEP NJ Forest Service Nursery) were distributed to the local community from Borough Hall. Given the popularity of this event – all seedlings were gone by 11:35 AM – if this NJ DEP Program is offered in 2023, the EC will again participate.

### **Patty Brand Memorial 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. After a presentation by Joan Mattia on 6/28, the EC/Green Team committed to working with the Seaweed Garden Club of Mantoloking and Bay Head in supporting the ongoing maintenance of the Patty Brand Memorial Garden.

In August, Scott Hulse's DPW Team, using a combination of Clean Communities and EC funding, installed coir logs and inserted vegetation in the logs to further protect the shoreline. Working with Ms. Mattia and the EC, they also performed basic maintenance although Ms. Mattia has agreed to continue to volunteer her time to weed the garden.

## **Education**

- Sustainable Jersey Webinars:
  - 2022 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle Program; 12/13/22. Barbara B.
  - NJ Sustainability Summit at Bell Works, Holmdel; 6/24; Barbara B. Sessions attended are:
    - Creating a Sustainable Energy Community through Community Education Planning
    - All Things Electric Vehicles
    - Technical Assistance Spotlight Expert Hands for Energy Projects
    - On the Frontlines of Climate Change: What Municipalities Can Do
  - Accelerating Electric Vehicle Transition in Your Community webinar; 4/5; Barbara B.
- ANJEC Webinars:



- Storm Flooding in New Jersey: Improving Stormwater Management & Preparedness; 1/20; Barbara B., Barbara T., and John M.
- ANJEC's Community Engagement Round Table, and Advancing Justice Initiatives in NJ; 6/14; Barbara T
- Local Planning for Climate Change Toolkit; 1/27; John M., Beth N., Jan O., and Barbara T.
- Virtual Roundtable on NJ Storm Flooding; 1/20; Barbara B. and John M.
- Flooding to Flourish Friday by ANJEC/Pinelands Alliance; 3/18; Barbara T.
- Prepare for Statewide Plastic Bag Ban webinar; 3/23; Barbara T.
- Climate Mini Series – The Arctic Meltdown, Why It Matters in NJ; 9/15; John M
- Climate Mini Series; 10/11; John M.
- Rutgers educational events:
  - State of the Climate: New Jersey 2021; 5/6; Jan O.
  - Jellyfish Dynamics presented by Dr. Paul Bologna; 5/23; Jan O. and Peter A.
  - Rutgers Weathering the Storm: Increased Resiliency a Decade After Superstorm Sandy Webinars:
    - Dr. David Robinson (Rutgers University) - Extreme weather events; 9/19; Jan O. and John M.
    - Dr. Tom Herrington (Monmouth University) - Coastal and community resiliency; 9/26; Jan O.
- Point Pleasant Beach Shade Tree Commission Seminars:
  - Planting and Pruning of Trees and Shrubs with guest speaker Bill Brash; 6/23; John W.
  - Karen Walzer, Pubic Outreach Coordinator for The Barnegat Bay Partnership; 4/6; John W.
- Save Barnegat Bay:
  - Creating and Planning a Certified Wildlife Habitat; 8/2; Peter A.
  - "Drift" screening; 8/23; Barbara B, Ann, Jan, John W, Barbara T, and Beth N.
  - Charting a Course - Stormwater Series; 8/30; Jan O.
  - Charting a Course for Barnegat Bay; 12/8; Beth N.
- Climate Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment; 6/3; Barbara T
- Offshore Wind in New Jersey: How Best to Bring Wind Power Ashore Virtual Roundtable; 6/23; John M.
- Watershed Institute, *Fireside Chat on Health of NJ Waters* with author Seth Siegel; 3/16; John M.
- League of Conservation Voters: Stormwater Management Success Stories and Next Steps; 12/6; John M.



**2022 Membership**

The MEC Chairwoman appointed a new Green Team member, Ann Colie, during the August meeting. Therefore, we currently have nine Green Team Members, six of which are also full MEC members as appointed by our Mayor, Lance White.

<b>MEC Team Members</b>	
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Chair
Denise Boughton	
John Mooney	
Beth Nelson	
Barbara Turro	
John Wesson	Planning Board Liaison
<b>Green Team Members</b>	
Peter Andruss	
Ann Colie	
Jan O'Malley	

**2022 MEC/Green Team Meeting Schedule**

- Zoom Meetings: Jan. 25, Feb. 22
- Meetings at Borough Hall in conjunction with teleconference: Mar. 22, Apr. 26, May 24, Jun. 28, Jul. 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Nov. 22, Dec. 13.
- The October meeting was cancelled.