



February 23, 2021

Meeting Minutes No: 2021-02

MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting took place via Zoom

Attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes

John Wesson made a motion to approve the January 2021 Meeting Minutes. Barbara Turro seconded the motion. These minutes had been distributed 2/1/21 at 6:49 PM.

John Mooney was officially welcomed.

Green Team Business →

- Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certification:
 - In order to avoid a lapse in certification, it is recommended that we reapply annually although technically, we need to recertify during 2023.
 - It was agreed that we will recertify in 2022.

MEC Business →

- **Japanese Black Pines** – John indicated no specific progress this month. The next step is to speak to Borough Hall.
- **2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant**
 - Haley reported that she believes the \$69.70 surplus will purchase approximately 12 plants: two beach plums (1 gallons) and ten bay berries (1 gallons with maybe a couple of tublings).
 - Pinelands Nursey needs to be contacted to verify pricing and to coordinate the final order.
 - Haley also needs to reach out to Kaitlyn Vollmer (Sustainable Jersey) to verify whether we need to purchase bunny guards. We can potentially disassemble some of the bunny guards originally used if necessary.
 - By the end of March/beginning of April, we should know which plants survived.
 - The order for new plants will need to be placed sometime prior to 4/30/21 in order to meet the parameters of our new agreement.



- **Sustainable Jersey Funding:**
 - Sustainable Jersey announced on 2/22 the availability of funding for a number of initiatives. Specific to us, it included \$1000 and \$2000 grants for promotional items, training, & educational materials.
 - Use grant money to potentially fund:
 - Three small signs (like the PPA signs) describing the Roots for Rivers project & the benefits of a native habitat in fortifying the dunes. Signs to be placed in the back dunes where our plantings occurred.
 - Pollinating plants for Monarch butterflies.
 - Recycling mailer.
 - Recycling sticker/magnet.
 - Speaker fee for C-Change presentation on Climate Change.
 - Environmental Basics Resident pamphlet.
 - Environmentally Safe Pool Drainage postcard.
 - On March 16th at 1 PM, there is a webinar on reviewing the application process and tips on crafting a successful grant proposal.
 - The due date is April 9th at 11:59 PM.
- **Climate Change Bill:**
 - A Climate Change Bill was signed by Governor Murphy in Feb. 2021 which requires that municipalities include a climate change hazard vulnerability assessment in the land use element of the master plan.
 - Elements of the ERI and the Flood Mitigation Report will likely be utilized as sources for this work.
 - ANJEC has announced that they are working on guidance for its development.
 - It was agreed that we will wait for ANJEC's guidelines to be published and that Jan will take the lead when this work commences.
- **MEC Facebook Postings:**
 - All team members have been given Admin access in order to post to the Mantoloking Environmental Commission Facebook page.
 - In order to increase traffic to the site, it was agreed that everyone should generate content. Barbara B. also suggested that if anyone's not comfortable with posting themselves, please forward their ideas/content to her to post.
- **Showcase Pollinating Plants:**
 - Barbara T. suggested this as an additional initiative for 2021.
 - Pollinating plants, that support the Monarch butterfly population, could be planted in the back dunes (goldenrods) and in the borough gardens (milkweed) where annuals are normally planting.
 - Grant money from Sustainable Jersey could be used to pay for this initiative.
- **Planning Board:**
 - It was agreed that we need a monthly agenda item to discuss planning board applications.



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- Any comments/input from the MEC to the Planning Board will be drafted into a letter which will then be read by a MEC member during the public comment portion of the Planning Board Meeting.
 - ??Can either John Wesson or Beth Nelson as members of both boards read the letter during the meeting?? i.e. not during the public comment period.

• **Updates on other 2021 Initiatives:**

Date(s)	Initiative Description & Updates	Owner(s)
4/17/21 10/23/21	<i>Beach Clean-up</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have agreed to work with Clean Ocean Action (COA) on beach clean-ups scheduled for 4/17 and 10/23. Barbara B. has agreed to be the Beach Captain for these events. Training will be taking place 3/23/21 at 7 PM. COA will not be able to provide us with an educational component for 4/17. Given that Emily McGuckin has not responded to our emails, Haley will reach out to the broader group of Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassadors to see if there is an interest in providing a 20 minute educational talk on protecting rare/endangered plants and/or wildlife prior to the clean-up. 	Barbara B.
Spring/Summer	<i>Environmental Basics Residential Pamphlet.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update. Handed out to residents when they apply for certain types of permits. With their agreement, to be handed out by Zoning office to residents seeking certain types of permits. Include information on the benefits of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native planting Environmentally sensitive lawns (inclusive of their connection to stormwater management & nonpoint source pollution) Pool Drainage Tips It was noted that the NJ Native Plant Society has a shore branch called, Jersey Shore. Beth sent Denise information on this group. 	Denise
Spring and Fall	<i>MEC/Green Team Newsletter</i> that would highlight environmental concerns particular to Mantoloking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress to date although discussion centered around potential topics for the Spring addition which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce MEC & the Green Team to the town. Keeping your storm drains cleaned (a message about this was posted on FB) Environmentally sensitive lawns that require minimal water and fertilizer. Native plantings/landscaping Advertise upcoming events 	Barbara B.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental page of Mantoloking.org ○ MEC Facebook page ○ Blogtrottr ○ Mantoloking Reporter 	
Spring	<p>Recycling Mailer whose intent is to educate residents on recycling rules/advertise Recycle Coach app.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After some discussion, it was agreed that this would be a 8.5" x 11" inch paper with printing on both sides. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also reformat for inclusion in the Blue Book? The Borough pays for the Blue Book so it's not clear how this would work financially. ○ A sticker/magnet could also be developed. • HOW it will be distributed is still under discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reformat for inclusion in the Blue Book? ○ Include in regular Borough mailing? ○ Mail ourselves? • As per feedback from Sustainable Jersey during the certification process, it needs to be pictorial. Do's on one side and Don'ts on the other side? • Haley suggested use of Canva Software for this project. 	John W.
Spring/Summer	<p>Walking Tour combining Green Stormwater Management Education with Native Gardens Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. • It was suggested that we do this in conjunction with the BHEC. • Information on rain barrels, rain gardens, porous groundcover, etc. • Walk to different locations during different months. Locations could potentially include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beth Nelson and Claudia Larsen both have Native gardens on their property ○ Patty Brand Memorial Garden ○ Kellogg property on Channel that includes Osprey nesting structures ○ John Wesson's property 	Beth Barbara T.
Spring	<p>OC Northern Recycling Center Tour for MEC/Green Team members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. • Potentially include interested residents. 	Beth
Fall	<p>Environmentally Safe Pool Drainage mailing/emailing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. • Postcard? 	Denise
Spring	<p>Add pages to the Blue Book thus leveraging work already performed by others on the team including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. • Recycling • Pool drainage 	Denise



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant stormwater management topics• Native gardening/environmentally sensitive lawns	
Summer	<p><i>Climate Change presentation/educational event</i> possibly in combination with other Environmental Commissions from the barrier island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As per an email forwarded to the team by John Mooney, John suggested and everyone agreed that we would like to use C-Change Conversation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They have what's referred to as the C-Change Primer which is a 1-hour presentation that can be held virtually or in person.○ There is a speaker fee of \$300.• Questions will be put together to share with C-Change such as how many guests can they accommodate virtually and what dates they have available in June or July.• We will target setting a specific date for the event during the next meeting.	Haley John M.
July 4th	<p>Educational table with "give-away" at July 4th town-wide event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No update.• Hand out reusable bags and possibly recycling magnets?	Denise Barbara B.

- **Upcoming Educational Events:**

- ANJEC: Environmental Commission Fundamentals four part Webinar, either Saturdays at 9:30 AM (2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20) or Tuesdays at 7 PM (3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23). Signup by emailing info@anjec.org.
- Sustainable Jersey Virtual Awards Luncheon. Mar. 11th at 12 noon – 1:15 PM. Register at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=e4svqyeab&oeidk=a07ehjiox6v54f4d658>.
- Sustainable Jersey: 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle Information session. Mar. 16, 7 PM. Sign up at: <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/pseg-cycle/>
- NJ Sustainability Virtual Summit – May 17th – 21st.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:04 pm. **Our next meeting is on Tues., 3/23/21 at 5:30 pm.**