

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP
Director of Planning

WILMA MORRISSEY
Council Chairman

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Thursday, February 7, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Monmouth County Planning Board Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Hall of Records Annex, One East Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, David Kostka, Wilma Morrissey, Scott Thompson, John Vig, France Karras, Barbara Horl

Members Absent: Paul Johnson, Ebru Altinsoy

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Linda Brennen, AmeriCorps Ambassador Cara Wiebalk

Public Present: None

3. REORGANIZATION:

A. **Election of Chairperson:** Mr. Kostka made the motion to nominate Ms. Morrissey for re-election of Chairperson, Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion, and a voice vote approved the motion to re-elect Ms. Morrissey as Chairperson.

B. **Election of Vice Chairperson:** Ms. Morrissey made the motion to nominate Ms. Karras for re-election of Vice Chairperson, Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion, and a voice vote approved the motion to elect Ms. Karras as Vice Chairperson.

C. **Approval of Meeting Schedule:** The Council reviewed the draft meeting schedule and decided to revise the meeting schedule to begin meetings at 4:30 p.m. Ms. DiLorenzo made the motion to approve the revised schedule, Mr. Thompson seconded the motion, and a voice vote approved the 2019 revised schedule.

- ### 4. REVIEW OF MINUTES:
- October 2018 and November 2018 minutes were tabled at the December 2018 meeting. With a quorum, the MCEC approved all pending minutes. Ms. DiLorenzo made a motion to approve the October 2018 minutes, Ms. Horl seconded the motion. The October 2018 minutes were adopted. Mr. Kostka made the motion to approve the November 2018 minutes, Ms. Morrissey

seconded the motion. The November 2018 minutes were adopted. Ms. Dilorenzo made a motion to approve the December 2018 minutes, Ms. Karras seconded the motion, and the December 2018 minutes were adopted.

5. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Chairman- Ms. Morrissey noted that her report can be viewed in the attached south coast report. Ms. Morrissey noted her attendance at the January Raritan Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study Technical Advisory Committee meeting and reported the meeting was successful. Ms. Morrissey asked Ms. Karras, who was also in attendance, to report her thoughts. Ms. Karras said the meeting consisted of a successful brainstorming session.

A. Planning Board- Ms. DiLorenzo reported that the MCPB held its January Reorganization meeting. Ms. Dilorenzo noted the MCPB continues to be updated on the Monmouth County Master Plan as adjusted.

B. Staff- Ms. Mallm described the February Dates to Remember. She recapped the January Sustainable Jersey Monmouth Hub meeting in which the group received a presentation from the NJ Clean Energy Program and NJ Natural Gas about various rebate opportunities. Ms. Mallm updated the Council on the NJDEP rule change proposal to the Stormwater Management Rules. Ms. Mallm reviewed the proposal and prepared a summary sent via email to the MCEC, STAC, and MC Engineering staff for potential comments, no comments were received. Ms. Mallm noted that the Rule's delayed operative date may require municipalities to update their municipal stormwater management plans and stormwater control ordinances. Planning staff and the MCPB attorney will work to fully understand these implications and may inquire with NJDEP for clarification. Ms. Mallm reported that the Jackson Township Planning Board held a hearing for the Trophy Park project planned for Rte. 537 in Jackson at its Feb. 4, 2019 meeting. Ms. Mallm has not found any information on the outcome but stated she will continue to follow this project. MCEC members noted the project has the potential to impact Monmouth County traffic and drainage. Staff also recalled Mr. Paul Gleitz, Monmouth County Parks System Planner, had concerns with impacts to acquisition projects downstream along Lahaway Creek. Ms. Brennen suggested Ms. Mallm should work with Monmouth County Development Review staff to coordinate potential comments.

C. Legislation- Ms. Mallm reported that bill S1703, the Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act, was passed in the Senate and Assembly. Staff will continue to follow the bill's progress and consider potential impacts to the County and its municipalities.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Spring Roundtable & Eco-Tips Brochure-** Ms. Mallm updated the Council on plans for the upcoming spring roundtable. The Council discussed the layout of the event agreed each speaker should present a 20 minute session and the agenda should include a question and answer session. Ms. Mallm reported that the speakers were given an outline of the event with potential speaking points. The speakers are connected via email to plan their presentations. Next Ms. Mallm will begin the Eco-Tips brochure and will ask Vicki Thompson, mosquito Control Division Superintendent, to review the content.

B. **Raritan Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study Update-** Ms. Brennen updated the Council on the progress of the study. The planning process utilizes a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to assist in site selection and determining project alternatives. Groups that were invited to sit on the TAC include: US Army Corps of Engineers NY District, US Coast Guard Sandy Hook Station, NJDEP, NWS Earle, the Monmouth County divisions of Planning, Engineering, Mosquito Control, Office of Emergency Management, Parks System, the eight Bayshore municipalities in the study area and local environmental groups that have completed similar projects like the Barnegat Bay Partnership. On Jan. 15 the TAC met to brainstorm potential projects in the Bayshore. Ms. Brennen recalled that stormwater related projects were favored by the TAC. The consultant, Michael Baker, is in the process of evaluating the data gathered from the meeting. The TAC will meet again in March to discuss preliminary project ideas. Once the study identifies 10-12 potential projects, the Division of Planning plans to seek out implementation funds for one of the selected projects.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Natural Resources Inventory Update-** Ms. Brennen presented key points from the Natural Resources Inventory. NRIs are planning tools that define the natural resources; in recent years they evolved to include historical and cultural components. Ms. Brennen explained that the Monmouth County NRI has been expanded to include planning goals, information on climate change, and coastal resiliency. Ms. Brennen asked the Council if they approve of this concept, the Council approves. Ms. Brennen will continue to finalize the NRI and plans to present it to the Planning Board this spring.

B. **FERC Northeast Supply Enhancement Project Final EIS-** The FERC published the final EIS for the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, otherwise known as the Transco Pipeline. The FEIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the project facilities, including the Raritan Bay Loop Pipeline offshore in NJ waters. The FERC accepted comments following the draft EIS last spring and addressed these comments in the FEIS. The Council recalled that its major concern with the draft EIS was an alternative route that ran the pipeline through the Bayshore municipalities. That route is a rejected alternative in the FEIS. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation worked with Transco to minimize construction conflicts with time of year restrictions for certain

marine species to the extent practicable. As a result, impacts on aquatic resources would be temporary and minor to moderate. Now FERC Commissioners will take into consideration their staff's recommendations as they make a decision on the Project.

8. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS:

Bayshore: Ms. Karras reported that the Bayshore region has been quiet. Otherwise she said that during the deep freeze she installed a heater in her outdoor bird bath and attracted lots of song birds to her yard. Some days later, she spotted a bald eagle in her yard. Mr. Thompson stated there is a bald eagle nest in Claypit Creek.

Navesink Valley: Mr. Vig said the Colts Neck Environmental Commission plans to discuss solutions for unrecyclable plastics at its upcoming meeting. Mr. Kostka reported Brookdale's upcoming Climate Change Talk and plans to clean a culvert in Holmdel to lessen flooding, see more in Mr. Kostka's attached report.

North Coast: Ms. DiLorenzo noted recent repairs to gaps in the Monmouth Beach seawall. Mr. Thompson also noted the Monmouth Beach replenishment and acknowledged its good timing before the tourism season. Mr. Thompson also recalled continuing efforts of the Rally for the Navesink water testing. Mr. Kostka reported the Empower NJ event "NJ Tour for a Fossil Fuel Moratorium" will occur on Feb. 21 in Rumson, see more in Mr. Kostka's attached report.

Mid Coast: Mr. Kostka reported recent odor issues in the neighborhoods near the Monmouth County Reclamation Center. Monmouth County plans to work with NJDEP to improve management, see more in Mr. Kostka's attached report.

South Coast: Ms. Morrissey summarized her attached report.

Pan Handle: Although Mr. Johnson is absent he provided his report via email: the Millstone Environmental Commission is holding its annual spring stream cleanup on Apr. 23

Pine Barrens: Ms. Brennen reported Barnegat Bay Partnership is preparing its Comprehensive Conservation Management plan.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Upon seeing no members of the public Ms. Morrissey closed the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Thompson made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Karras seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

January/February, 2019
South Coast Region Report
Wilma Morrissey

Avon-by-the-Sea

The Avon Environmental Commission presented **The Green Merchant Program** to the board of commissioners at the Monday night meeting. The program is aimed to help merchants in the borough go “green”. Edward Bonanno, chair of the Avon Environmental Commission, presented the Avon Green Merchant Program at the commissioners meeting. The program, he described as voluntary, is meant to encourage rather than force merchants to reduce their use of plastics and non-recyclable products. Mr. Bonanno described the Pacific pollution vortex, a large area of plastic debris floating in the Pacific Ocean, and explained its impact. “It has a tremendous impact on wildlife, on birds ... marine animals ... it's this big worldwide but it's also a local problem,” he said.

Belmar

The 30-year-old **New Jersey Seafood Festival**, held in May, draws tens of thousands of visitors. This year, it is moving downtown. “All the street closures and closing off Ocean Avenue — it took a lot of manpower to do to have it down by the ocean,” said Mayor Mark Walsifer. In contrast, he said, holding the festival downtown would “give a boost to all our merchants on Main Street.

BELMAR — It may be more expensive to set foot on the borough's beachfront this summer. The borough **council is mulling an ordinance to raise beach badge fees** across the board for daily, seasonal and senior badge holders. Seasonal beach badges will see a hefty \$15 increase, from \$55 to \$70. Under the proposed ordinance, senior seasonal beach badges also will increase \$15 to \$30. There will also be a new “Junior” beach badge, for children 12 to 16 years of age, which will also cost \$30. Daily badges would also increase to \$9, up by \$1 from the previous year. Beach users are required to have badges from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

Raccoon attack brings warning from county health officials.

Citing a raccoon attack on a borough resident, the Monmouth County Health Department issued a warning Friday about the dangers posed by rabid animals. The victim, who was bitten while in the backyard of a residence, is receiving rabies post-exposure treatment, according to a news release issued by the department.

Belmar police, along with Monmouth County SPCA, have captured a raccoon they believe to have been involved in the attack and will be testing it for rabies. According to the Center for Disease Control [CDC], rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the CDC each year from New Jersey occur in wild animals like
Adopted 9/5/19

raccoons, skunks and bats. County officials also warned that rabies can be fatal to pets.

Bradley Beach

Bradley Brew Project is not only brewing up beer but also good will.

The brew project, which opened up shop in June of last year, has raised \$300 to donate to the Bradley Food Pantry.

Brielle:

Lake Como:

Borough brings charges against Joe's Surf Shack. The Borough of Lake Como has filed charges against Fahey Hospitality Group, LLC, doing business as Joe's Surf Shack, for three alleged violations of borough code as well as one Alcoholic Beverage Control [ABC] regulation violation.

Manasquan

MANASQUAN — **The borough council is revisiting plans to establish an active pickup and drop off zone at the beachfront.** It is also **looking to repeal licensing fees for taxi/autocabs** registered in the borough, while also providing them with exclusive benefits to taxi stands that they do not currently have. The two ordinances were introduced Tuesday and will be up for a second reading and public hearing at the next council meeting. The move comes from a suggestion from police officials who have expressed concern of public safety in moving everyone out of the bars at closing time.

Point Pleasant

The American Littoral Society oversaw the installation of more than 300 wooden pilings. These pilings are the first steps in the construction of branch box breakwaters that will prevent further erosion, foster sedimentation and help restore low marsh habitat at Slade Dale.

Recycled trees will help restore nature preserve shoreline. After months of planning, permit submittals and securing funding sources, efforts to protect and restore the nearly 13-acre Slade Dale Nature Sanctuary are expected to come to fruition this spring. Christmas trees will be collected and recycled to help reestablish the 1977 shoreline of the salt marsh, which has eroded almost 300 feet over the past century. "We want people to think of the restoration at Slade Dale as a holiday miracle that they helped create," Capt. Al Modjeski, habitat restoration director for the American Littoral Society [ALS], said in a release.

“Rather than mulching or burning trees, the community came together to provide inexpensive materials that will not only restore a shoreline but help protect the surrounding area”

Point Pleasant Beach

Structural damage to Rte. 35 bridge in Point Pleasant Beach is delaying completion of the reconstruction of the span According to Mairin Bellack, deputy director of communications for the New Jersey Department of Transportation [NJDOT], the \$6.3 million federally funded project, which spans the Manasquan River and aims to rehabilitate the bridge over Ashley Avenue in Brielle, encountered complications as work progressed over the past several months. “The Route 35 Bridge Project that will replace the deck, parapets, sidewalks and improvements to the superstructure, substructure, lighting and approaches to the bridge, began in September 2018. The work will continue off-season.

George Vrepek, of the Point Pleasant Elks Lodge, presents donated gift cards to Chief Petty Officer George Ramirez of the **Manasquan/Shark River Inlet Coast Guard station** as families are impacted by the federal government shutdown. The halls of Point Pleasant Elks Lodge 1698 overflowed with boxes of donated groceries this week, several more were stuffed with thousands of dollars in gift cards. It’s about the about the outpouring of community support for the personnel at the Manasquan/Shark River Inlet station. It is going to families in need in the area. Upwards of \$13,000 in donations and gift cards, as well as more than 2,400 pounds of food have been donated by the local community to support U.S. Coast Guard personnel and their families affected by the partial federal government shutdown.

To celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Woman’s Club of Point Pleasant joined others around the nation in making Jan. 21 a day of community service.

The event was held at the clubhouse, 513 St. Louis Ave. Local children and other volunteers came together to support a variety of service projects. Walking into the clubhouse Monday, tables were devoted to various crafts supporting causes including disadvantaged children, domestic violence shelters and more. At one table, hundreds of shoes were collected throughout the event from members of the community for Soles4Souls — a nonprofit creating sustainable jobs and providing relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world.

Sea Girt

Longtime Sea Girt resident Lynn Ward spoke on behalf of Sea Girt — Residents once again brought **concerns over bulk building to the borough council** on January 23. Borough officials said they would look over suggested ordinances and get back to the residents.

The Coast Star obtained a copy of the response by Borough Engineer Peter Avakian of the suggested ordinances via OPRA request. It states the ordinances are either “unnecessary at this time” or “there is no justification for revision ... at this time.”

Ms. Ward said pages 27 and 31 of the 2018 Master Plan address the issues regarding bulk building within the borough. According to Ms. Ward, the concerned citizens are confused as to how “professionals can recommend steps to be taken in the master plan and then deny that any steps need to be taken six months later.”

Sixth-grader Isabella Bird [from left] and eighth-graders Kelsey White and Lauren Kane worked together the day the rainbow trout eggs arrived at the school. Students at Sea Girt Elementary School [SGES] students are working together this school year **to study and care for rainbow trout**. According to SGES science teacher Laura Dunbar, this project started when Carly Fanslau, assistant principal and director of student services at SGES, joined the school. Ms. Dunbar said every student in the school participates in the project with the older students taking a more hands-on approach. “The project runs through Trouts in the Classroom where classrooms simulate a river system with trout,” she said. “The students run the program through science class.” Grades sixth through eighth take care of the tank and feed the fish while prekindergarten through fifth grade make observations of the fish and their behavior.

Spring Lake

Spring Lake discusses plan to revitalize downtown area. Spring Lake resident Mike Aquino offered the suggestion of adding a restaurant or a bar in the downtown district to help revitalize the shopping area. The Spring Lake Borough Council recently discussed possible ways to improve and get more visitors to the downtown district, including an establishment with a liquor license. During the reorganization meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 8, borough resident Mike Aquino raised the issue.

Mr. Aquino said businesses like small restaurants with a liquor license or a children’s play area would help to boost the struggling businesses of Spring Lake’s downtown. Mayor Jennifer Naughton said she supports the idea. According to the mayor, the borough already has the number of liquor licenses per 3,000 people that it is allowed under state law. Existing licenses include The Breakers, a seasonal license at The Grand Victorian and two club licenses at the Essex and Sussex and the Spring Lake Bath and Tennis.

Spring Lake Heights

Six Scouts earn their Silver Award for ‘The Straw Draw’ Six scouts from Girl Scout Troop 29 of Spring Lake Heights earned their Silver Award this past year. The award is the highest achievement a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. Michaela Madonna, Alexis Daly, Maeve Spang, Madeline Reynolds, Violet Knobel, and Colleen Dickenson all earned their awards for a project they developed called The Straw Draw. The concept started as a plan to lessen the impacts of plastics in our area. According to Troop 29 scout leader Katie Reynolds, the scouts were all passionate about the environment and oceans. They were inspired to help after seeing first-hand the impact of plastics while at the beach swimming or surfing. “These girls care deeply about the environment and want to see a real change made to the way the earth is treated,” said Ms. Reynolds.

Wall Township:

Adopted 9/5/19

Traffic signal coming to Ramshorn Drive intersection. A long-awaited traffic signal is slated to be installed this spring at the intersection of Ramshorn Drive with Atlantic Avenue and Lakewood-Allenwood Road. Monmouth County awarded a \$1,053,976 contract in November to the C.J. Hesse Company for the work, county Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone said.

A pre-construction meeting was held for Jan. 18, he said, and then work will begin immediately, starting with the relocation of utilities. The intersection will be reconfigured and the Edgar Felix Memorial Bikeway, which crosses Allenwood-Lakewood Road there, will be moved farther away from the intersection. The project is expected to take six months to complete, depending on the weather. Police Lt. Chad Clark said the volume of traffic at the intersection has increased over the years, and police thought it would be best to add a traffic signal. The problem, Lt. Clark said, is the very sharp angle of the intersection, which forces drivers at the stop signs to crane their necks to see oncoming traffic.

High schoolers carry bags of donated items during the **MLK Day of Service held at Wall Intermediate School on Monday, Jan. 21.** Although Monday was a holiday, scores of students showed up bright and early at Wall Intermediate School, to help out with the third annual Wall Township Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. A sea of elementary, intermediate and high school students, who participated in the multi-faceted event, included a food and clothing drive. Around the cafeteria, donated items were being stacked on tables for various nonprofit groups in Monmouth and Ocean counties. Items such as food and clothing go directly to local families in need, which is better than throwing the items into a collection bin, Ms. Moran said.

Ms. Moran is one of an informal group of eight moms who coordinate the day of service, which is hosted by the school's Junior National Honor Society

AmeriCorps volunteers help restore InfoAge building While many people volunteer to do a day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, there is one group currently in Wall Township that is donating 10 full months of service to communities around the nation. Nine young adults from across the country are spending the month of January at the InfoAge Science and History Learning Center, helping to refurbish part of a building that will house the center's expanded Electronic Warfare Exhibit. The team of AmeriCorps volunteers arrived at InfoAge, site of the Army's former Camp Evans, the second week of January. Their job is to install new drywall inside one part of an old building. The young men and women said they get back even more than they give through volunteering with AmeriCorps. "We get to travel to so many states. We learn a lot and see a lot, and will be able to bring home life skills," said the AmeriCorps team leader, Christy Folk, of Kissimmee, Florida.

All excerpts from the Coast Star

Other: Ocean Coast Star

Adopted 9/5/19

BRICK TOWNSHIP — The state has given the township a notice of violation for failing to obtain proper authorization for dredging at Traders Cove Marina.

Article from The Sandpaper published November 7, 2018:

Long Beach Township is among the **six New Jersey municipalities recognized as a “Champion of the Coast” by the American Littoral Society**. The organization has lauded these communities for their efforts to support Regional Ocean planning, oppose new offshore oil and gas drilling, and ban intentional balloon releases that pollute beaches and waters. **Asbury Park, Bradley Beach, Berkeley Township, Lavallette and Point Pleasant Beach** join the township on the list of towns acknowledged by the coastal conservation nonprofit. The society developed the **Champions of the Coast** initiative early this year, and is seeing rapid growth in participation from communities seeking to ensure a clean and healthy ocean and coastline into the future. The organization emphasizes that local leadership is imperative to maintaining the health of the environment and economy.

February, 2019
Regional Report
David Kostka

NJT Moves Forward with Electric Buses- Good First Step: In January, NJ Transit purchased 8 electric buses along with 85 new articulated buses that will be delivered over the next two years. These electric buses will be introduced on eight routes in Camden. Electric buses will help municipalities and the state as a whole reduce our carbon footprint and produce less greenhouse gasses. Now that NJ Transit has started to move forward, we can work towards having electric mass transit and put the infrastructure in place for electric vehicles.

Tinton Falls Uncaps Landfill, Causes Terrible Stink for Town: The Monmouth County Reclamation Center has been emitting extremely foul odors lately. The 103-acre landfill off of Asbury Avenue has been collecting household trash and construction debris since 1976. The community has put up with the smell, but it has recently become much worse. The failure to adequately cap part of the landfill has caused the big stink. The heavy rain and not having a tight enough cap caused leachate to get out and caused a terrible health hazard. The landfill administrators decided to open the capped landfill, making it even worse. It is critical that DEP works together with the town and residents to properly contain the smell and fix the cap. They can cover the landfill with vinyl and put in air scrubbers temporarily to hold in the smells until the department installs a proper cap. DEP should also require monitoring of air pollution control devices and leachate monitoring wells.

Empower NJ, a coalition of New Jersey's largest environmental, faith, and progressive organizations, is organizing the "NJ Tour for a Fossil Fuel Moratorium", a series of 6 public forums beginning February 18 and running through early April. We'll hear from experts and community leaders who are on the front lines of the fight to stop the Meadowlands Power Plant and the 12 new fossil fuel projects proposed throughout our state. Join Empower NJ for our public meetings and learn about these fossil fuel proposals in our communities, why they endanger our air, water, and safety and what you can do to help stop them.

February 21st Meeting

When: Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, 4 E River Rd, Rumson, New Jersey 07760

Increased Concerns Over Climate Changes Talk

When: Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00pm

Who: The husband-wife team of Jan and Lynn Dash, Monmouth County environmentalists who were in the vanguard of those warning about the dangers of climate change.

What: They will go into the details and underlying science of the latest IPCC/UN report that argues that climate changes, including coastal flooding, are accelerating at a faster rate than previously predicted. For example, on average, Earth's temperature has increased by 1.8 percent over the last 100 years and the seas have risen by nine feet. Details will be on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/>.

Where: Brookdale Community College, Lincroft Campus, in the Warner Student Life

Adopted 9/5/19

The Monmouth County Park System has several programs of note:

A Backyard Bird Count will be held at 9 am Feb 16 at Big Brook Park, Marlboro. A MC Park System naturalist will explore the park.

Will host children's author Janine Kimmel for a talk on **the Art of Storytelling** on Feb 10 from 1-3:30 pm at Dorbrook Recreation Area program building on Rte 537 in Colts Neck. Youngsters ages 8-11 are invited.

A blacksmith demonstration will be presented by the MC Park System from 1-3 pm on Feb 10 at Historic Longstreet Farm in Holmdel.

Holmdel Township is requesting the NJ Dept of Transportation to clean the Mahoras Brook culvert which runs under Route 35 to prevent flooding in that area. Sediment has built up over the years.