

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, September 5, 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 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

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

Members Absent: Paul Johnson

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Linda Brennen

Public Present: None

- ### 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:
- With a quorum, Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the February minutes, Ms. DiLorenzo seconded. The February minutes were adopted.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. Chairman- Ms. Morrissey recalled her attendance at the recent Monmouth-Ocean County Development Energy and Environment Committee meeting where Gary Sondemeyer of Bayshore Recycling spoke on the economics of recycling plastics. Ms. Morrissey summarized the presentation and said that it is difficult to generate revenue, and China is restricting imports of recycled material. Due to recent difficulties for members to attend meetings at 4:30 pm, Ms. Morrissey asked the Council if all upcoming meetings can be rescheduled to 5 p.m. The Council agreed. Ms. Mallm will prepare a notice to reschedule upcoming meetings to 5 p.m.

A. Planning Board- Ms. DiLorenzo was not in attendance at the August Planning Board meeting and asked that Ms. Mallm and Ms. Brennen offer the report. Ms. Mallm reported that the MCPB heard a presentation on the agricultural census and the 2019 merit awards, and the Barnegat Bay Partnership's draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.

B. **Staff-** Ms. Mallm described the September Dates to Remember. She also reported that dues are requested to be paid to ANJEC and gathered the names of the members that would like their dues paid. Ms. Mallm informed the Council that the Monmouth County Transportation Council will be holding a regular meeting on September 10 and will receive a presentation on the Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey program by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Endangered and Nongame species program

C. **Legislation-** Ms. Mallm reported recent bills. Bill A4330, which proposes to prohibit the use of plastic carryout bags, expanded polystyrene, and single-use plastic straws. The Council believes this may be proposed to replace the bill previously vetoed by Governor Murphy which included a five-cent fee on plastic bags. Bill A5293 which makes various changes to laws governing remediation of contaminated sites. Bill A5721 requires district recycling plans to include compostable waste among source separated recyclable materials, and bill A5722 which permits counties and municipalities' to bond for alternative fuel vehicles.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Fall Roundtable & Eco-Tips Brochure-** Ms. Mallm updated the Council on plans for the October 29th fall roundtable. Ms. Mallm reported that the speakers were confirmed including Meredith Demarco- NY/NJ Baykeeper, Jaye Sims- Assistant County Recycling Coordinator, and John Stanton Atlantic Coast Recycling. Next Ms. Mallm will offer a draft Eco-Tips brochure at the October meeting.

B. **Raritan Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study Update-** Ms. Brennen updated the Council on the progress of the study. After of process of brainstorming potential project sites with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the consultant, Michael Baker, prepared a matrix to determine which site would be most suitable based on the goals of the project. The matrix identified 20 projects which were further discussed and evaluated by the TAC. Using the data collected, Michael Baker identified 11 final projects and is in the process of preparing draft concept plans. Next the Division of Planning Staff will meet with the land owners/managers of the sites to obtain the consent and final input before the projects are brought before the TAC in October.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Discussion of Plastic Reduction-** The Council continued a discussion regarding the negative impacts of plastics including microplastics which are ingested by marine life. The Council also spoke about opportunities for upcycling recyclables. Ms. Morrissey shared Wall Township's Environmental Advisory Committee's draft brochure titled "Facts on Single-Use Plastic Bags Choose Reusable Bags" and described the Township's efforts to reduce plastic consumption by offering free reusable bags. The Council discussed other efforts to encourage the use of

reusable bags in their municipalities and the need to educate the public about the impacts of single-use plastics.

7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS:

Bayshore: Ms. Karras reported that the Atlantic Highlands Planning board approved housing at the McConnel tract. Ms. Karras also noted she recently attended a harmful Alagal Bloom information session.

Navesink Valley: Mr. Vig said he expects impacts to Colts Neck from COAH requirements

North Coast: Ms. DiLorenzo reported Monmouth Beach has been quiet.

Mid Coast: Mr. Kostka mentioned Red Bank recently adopted a plastic bag ban. He also reported Marlboro has a FEMA grant for stormwater restoration on pleasant valley way.

South Coast: See Ms. Morrissey's attached report.

Pan Handle: No report

Pine Barrens: No report.

8. 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. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

September 5, 2019
South Coast Region Report (Final)
Wilma Morrissey

Asbury Park:

Sea.Hear.Now returns to Asbury Park on Saturday, Sept. 21 and Sunday, Sept. 22, after last year's major success and popularity among festival-goers. The two-day festival encompasses all-day music, surfing, food, art and sustainability, taking place on the beach, boardwalk and in Bradley Park. Sea.Hear.Now was a dream for many years, said Tim Sweetwood, festival director. The rich musical history of Asbury Park coupled with the seaside location makes for a dream location and was the driving force for a festival that celebrates —music, art, and surf. ||

Avon-by-the-Sea:

The Bobby Bandieera and Friends Band entertained the crowd at the Columns during Sunday's **fundraiser for The Desatrick Foundation in support of Sam Jamer** who suffered a spinal cord injury on July 24 while on the job as a lifeguard. Sam did a run of the mill jump in the ocean while on duty and a wave clipped his feet causing him to land head first on the sand.

Bayhead:

BAY HEAD — Unfavorable weather conditions put a damper on the return of the **Bay Head Duck Derby**, with strong winds and tides scattering a fleet of rubber ducks and stalling their race down Scow Ditch for the chance to be named Bay Head Duck Derby champion. But the weather on Saturday, Aug. 10, didn't dampen the spirits of more than two dozen children, parents, families and community members who lined the docks of Scow Ditch to watch their racers splash into the water for the much anticipated return of a favorite community event.

BAY HEAD — For nearly five decades, community members from near and far have made their way to the Jersey Shore to take part in an afternoon gathering full of seafood delights.

The **46th annual Bay Head Fire Co. No. 1 Clambake** was held on Saturday, Aug. 17, from noon to 5 p.m. at the firehouse, 81 Bridge Ave.

Tickets were \$35 in advance and \$40 at the gate for adults, and \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate for those under 12 years old. Ticket sales will be limited to 1,200 people.

Belmar:

The Belmar Environmental Commission plans to hold a meeting in October to bring together Environmental Commissions from nearby towns to talk about environmental issues that plague fellow shore towns.

The meeting will focus on Sea Level Rise. and other factors. There will be a Sea level Rise presentation given by the NJ Organizing Project that advocates for government entities to come up with plans to combat sea level rise.

BELMAR — The borough has filed a counterclaim for negligence against an outfall pipe contractor who is suing Belmar for \$300,000 in back payments.

The borough is counter-punching in a legal dispute with the construction firm that built the

Lake Como Stormwater Outfall Pipe and later filed a lawsuit claiming that Belmar still owed it more than \$300,000 for the project.

The counterclaim, filed by the borough on Aug. 8, accuses J.E. Hannon INC, trading as Bird Construction, of breach of contract, negligence, unjust enrichment, breach of implied warranties and negligent misrepresentation.

Central to the borough's argument is that Bird Construction, which completed outfall pipe's construction in May 2018, —breached the terms of the contract by failing to complete the work for the associated project and also the work that was completed was deficient and not in accordance with the contract and also the construction plans.¶

According to the suit, the flapper valve system, which regulates hydraulic flow from Lake Como to the ocean, has failed on —multiple occasions and currently fails to function as was required under the contract.¶

The Lake Como outfall pipe connects Lake Como with the Atlantic Ocean and is meant to alleviate flooding in the three towns the lake borders- Belmar, Lake Como and Spring Lake. Located in Belmar, the pipe runs underground, before coming onto the beach near the intersection of Ocean Avenue and North Boulevard.

BELMAR: Each September our shore community marks the beginning of —locals summer¶ where year-round residents take back the beach and enjoy their own summer reprieve. It also marks **the annual Belmar Pro surf competition** held by Eastern Lines each year in early to mid- September. This year the annual 2019 Belmar Pro brought surf, art and music to the beach from Friday, Sept. 13 through Sunday, Sept. 15.

Bradley Beach:

BRADLEY BEACH — The Bradley Beach boardwalk was bustling with residents and visitors all weekend as the borough welcomed back it's annual **LobsterFest seafood celebration**, after a one-year interruption which ran from 11 a.m to 6 p.m along the Beachfront Promenade.

The smell of buttered lobster pervaded the entire length of the boardwalk on Saturday and Sunday as patrons waited in long lines to sample succulent seafood and other festival fare. LobsterFest 2019 featured something for all visitors, from food to crafts and live music from several bands.

Brielle:

The Brielle borough is gearing up for **Brielle Day**, the annual celebration which has been a late summer event since 1973. This year's Brielle Day will be held Saturday, September 7 at Brielle Park. 3

Lake Como:

LAKE COMO — The 17th Annual Fallen Heroes **5K Memorial Run** is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 9 a.m. rain or shine.

The Fallen Heroes 5K was created as a fundraiser and commemoration for the victims of 9/11.

Manasquan:

—**JawsII** was originally set to be shown on Monday, Aug. 26, however the viewing was postponed due to an equipment failure, according to Erik Ertle, beach and recreation superintendent.

MANASQUAN — Dozens of kayakers, canoers and paddle boarders took to **Stockton Lake in an annual competition** known for pitting family and friends against one another in the spirit of friendly competition.

The mile-long track took racers around the lake, with participants launching at Axel B. Carlson Park, on Stockton Lake Boulevard on Saturday, Aug. 17.

MANASQUAN — Tonight's Movie at Main Beach has been cancelled due to impending inclement weather. Manasquan Beach and Recreation Department was planning on showing —**Soul SurferII** at 8:15 p.m.

Point Pleasant:

POINT PLEASANT — The sky above Riverfront Park lit up in spectacular colors yesterday evening as the **Centennial Kickoff Celebration** ended with a much anticipated fireworks display that ushered in the beginning of a year full of events leading up to the 100th birthday of the Borough of Point Pleasant.

While gloomy weather hung a cloud over the event prior to its commencement Aug. 23, the sun was special ordered for the evening and hundreds of families, along with many four-legged friends, set up lawns chairs on the fields of Riverfront Park to enjoy a few hours of live entertainment, food trucks, a beer and wine garden and camaraderie among friends, neighbors and family.

—This is the beginning of our celebration of 100 years of being a separate town, Mayor Robert Sabosik told the crowd of attendees mid-way through festivities.

Point Pleasant Beach

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — A large crowd followed Father Pedro DeOliverira and Father Marek Stybor, of St. Peter Church, to the shoreline on Aug. 15 to take part **in a ritual blessing of the ocean waters.**

The blessing was preceded by a morning Mass on Jenkinson's Beach celebrating the Catholic Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Following Mass, Father Pedro and Father Marek lead the congregation down to the shoreline to bless the ocean waters and all those who enter them, whether for recreation or livelihood. 4

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — **Jenkinson's A won its home tournament** by just inches on Friday, Aug. 9. With a slight lead over Bay Head going into the last of five events, the two teams squared off in the tug-of-war final at the Sean Stephenson Memorial Lifeguard Tournament presented by Jenkinson's.

Bay Head was in the lead for close to 55 seconds of the minute-long tug contest. Jenkinson's A made its final pull count by getting the flag just slightly over the median line for the victory.

Sea Girt:

The Holly Club of Sea Girt kicked off its fall season starting with the meeting on Thursday, September 5 at noon at St. Uriel's Church. The meeting featured guest speaker, Fred Carl, who spoke about Dahlias.

Spring Lake:

SPRING LAKE — A slight breeze is all that one club needs to have a bit of fun all while competing to be the best skipper possible.

The **Marbleheaders of Spring Lake** may not be one of the borough's most known clubs, but their presence can be spotted out at the lake at least four times a week and often more.

The club celebrates a passion for model yachts. Members collect, build and race these yachts out on Spring Lake, competing in seasonal series all for the love of their sport.

Spring Lake Heights:

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS — **Flooding at the Spring Lake Heights Shopping Center** and Route 71 has been an ongoing issue in the town during any heavy rainfall.

However, the shopping center's owner, Richard Roccesano, said the flooding has —been significantly improved in the last few months. He credits Freeholder Director Tom Arnone and Assemblyman Sean Kean for bringing attention to the issue.

Wall Township:

ALLAIRE STATE PARK

Allaire State Park spans both Wall and Howell townships and is best known for its historic 19-century ironmaking town, Allaire Village, as well as its antique steam trains on the Pine Creek Railroad. The Manasquan River winds through the park with a floodplain that provides habitat for more than 200 species of wildflowers, trees and plants as well as habitat for birds and other wildlife. Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders alike enjoy the many trails in the park.

A perfect place for hitting the trails, Allaire State Park offers over 20 miles of official, blazed trails in both the main area of the park near Allaire Village and on the south side of the park next to Hospital Road. The trails closer to the historic Allaire Village are for hiking only. Most of the trails around the village and family campgrounds are relatively flat, but the trails on the south side offer a little more variety without going over 60 inches of change in elevation.

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WALL TOWNSHIP – A special school board meeting Tuesday focused on the condition of **classroom trailers at Central Elementary School, where some elevated levels of mold spores were found in air sampling.**

The meeting was attended by about 60 parents. Several of them asked that the trailers be scrapped, and spoke about issues with asthma and allergies suffered by students and staff. Board members said they don't want the trailers to ever be used as classrooms again.

Controversy over the trailers began two weeks ago, and the district decided last week to relocate the fifth-grade classes this school year from the trailers to the main building. The school board on Aug. 20 halted a repair project on the trailers, which have been in use since 2007, until it decides what to do with them.

During the meeting, parents, staff and residents had the opportunity to comment and ask questions of representatives of the firm that conducted air sampling at the school and of district architects.

WALL TOWNSHIP —**The Kmart store at 1825 Route 35 will close in December**, the company has announced. —After careful review, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to close the Kmart stores in Wayne, Trenton, Wall and Somers Point, in New Jersey, company spokesman Larry Costello stated.

—Liquidation sales are expected to begin in mid-September and the stores are planned to close by mid-December. We encourage customers to continue shopping on Kmart.com for all their product needs, Mr. Costello stated.

WALL TOWNSHIP — **Allenwood**

Road work at the intersection of Route 524 and Ramshorn Drive, which has been ongoing all summer, is expected to be completed in December, about a month later than originally predicted, Monmouth County Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone said.

The \$1.3 million county project will include installation of a long-awaited traffic signal, reconfiguration of the intersection, new rainwater sewer pipes and curbing. The Edgar Felix Memorial Bikeway, which crosses both roadways, will be moved farther from the intersection, and will have new solar-powered flashing beacons.

During construction, various sections of the county-owned Route 524 Spur, which encompasses Atlantic Avenue and Allenwood-Lakewood Road, have been closed and traffic has been rerouted along detours, affecting several small businesses there.

SHARK RIVER PARK

Another popular destination in Monmouth County, **Shark River Park**, features more than 8 miles of trails. Shark River Park is located at 1101 Schoolhouse Road in Wall Township. Plants and animals common to the wetlands/floodplain ecosystem, as well as the pine/oak forest habitat, can be spotted from these trails. In addition, a fitness trail is available for hikers. 6

Please be advised that a small portion of the Hidden Creek Trail is closed, but alternative routes are posted along the trail.

WALL TOWNSHIP – Allaire Community Farm has gotten the green light to continue a variety of uses and activities despite the objections of a few neighbors.

—We're thrilled to be able to put this behind us, JoAnn Burney, one of the farm co-founders, said. The Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board has designated it as a commercial farm. That means it operates under the state's Right to Farm Act, which protects commercial farms from public and private nuisance actions and unduly restrictive municipal regulations, and provides ways to resolve disputes with neighbors.

The nonprofit Allaire Community Farm, 1923 Baileys Corner Road, describes its goal as using —our rescued animals and the working farm environment to nurture through nature.

The farm sells eggs, herbs and other farm produce, and offers a variety of programs for special needs and at-risk groups, as well as school class trips, goat yoga, a petting zoo and other activities.

The farm had been sued in state Superior Court by several neighboring residents upset when the nonprofit relocated last summer from Allaire Road to Baileys Corner Road. They sought to halt construction of several barns and sheds on the property. But in October 2018, Judge Joseph P. Quinn determined that the case lies at the feet of the agricultural board.

The board decided in May that the farm meets the legal definition of a commercial farm, and held a public hearing on July 2. Several residents whose properties on Colonial Drive abut the farm's north side said they believe the focus of the farm is entertainment, not agricultural.

The board reviewed and approved several of the farm's various uses at its Aug. 6 meeting in Freehold Township. A formal resolution approving the uses, such as a farm market, and setting conditions is to be drawn up for approval at the board's Sept. 3 meeting.

Excerpts from the Coast Star