

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM  
*Director of Planning*

WILMA MORRISSEY  
*Council Chairman*

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### Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

**Thursday, September 2, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

Via Webex

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Morrissey called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Wilma Morrissey, Jennifer DiLorenzo, Scott Thompson, John Vig

Members Absent: Paul Johnson, France Karras, David Kostka, Ashley Reese

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, David Schmetterer, Harriet Honigfeld

2. **REVIEW OF MINUTES** The Council reviewed the August 2021 minutes. Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. With no objections the minutes were approved.

#### 3. PRESENTATION

Ellias Sarrinikolaou, a Landscape Architect with the Monmouth County Department of Public Works and Engineering described the duties of the Shade Tree Division. Mr. Sarrinikolaou said the main responsibility is to maintain the trees in County facilities including buildings, offices, libraries, and roadways on a routine basis and in response to storm events. The Shade Tree Division will also plant trees throughout facilities. Mr. Sarrinikolaou explained that the Shade Tree Division will assist municipalities and the County Park System upon request.

Ms. Morrissey asked about arbor day planting program. Mr. Sarrinikolaou explained that schools interested in receiving a tree, may submit an application, then County staff will meet with the school and identifies a location on the property. Ms. Morrissey asked if the Environmental Council could organize a tree planting. Mr. Sarrinikolaou said the Division is holding spring forum in 2022 a free event with expert speakers, participants can earn professional development credits.

#### 4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. **Chairman-** Ms. Morrissey called attention to articles she shared with the Council. One article claims that planting one trillion trees could reduce carbon emissions. Mr. Sarrinikolaou said that in his opinion, large trees are the benefit, and planted trees must be maintained. Ms. Morrissey also noted several DEP articles regarding water quality, EV incentives, air quality alerts. Ms. Morrissey noted the USACE published a report for the

back bay study and public hearings are scheduled. Article discussing the need for electric vehicle charging stations.

**B. Planning Board-** As Ms. DiLorenzo was not in attendance the last Planning Board meeting, staff provided an update. Ms. Mallm and Mr. Schmetterer said that the Planning Board received a small presentation on the initial results of the 2020 Decennial Census. Mr. Schmetterer noted that the 2020 Decennial Census showed more individuals than what was expected based on the 2019 American Community Survey estimates. The Division of Planning will continue evaluating the census data.

**C. Staff-** Ms. Mallm stated that the Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee has now reviewed all 53 municipal stormwater control ordinances, the last ordinance will be reviewed at the next Planning Board meeting

**D. Legislation-** Ms. Mallm said S3995/A5944 was established into law. The law establishes a program through the BPU to allow schools and small business to obtain grants to install HVAC systems and water efficient appliances, dishwashers, icemakers, and clothing washers. The law says the application for this program should be available in October.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. JLUS III-** Ms. Mallm provided an update on the JLUS III study. Ms. Mallm said that the Next Steps for Compatibility Study project team is continuing data collection. Ms. Mallm said that Princeton Hydro will be installing monitoring wells in the waterways at the focus of in the Coastal Resilience Design study. Ms. Mallm said they are continuing communication with Aberdeen and Union Beach.

**B. 2021 Goals-** Ms. Mallm said she reached out to the Park System to find out what programs the Park System is interested in promoting. Ms. Mallm said she learned about the new Nature on the Move vans. Ms. Mallm said the Council could help promote this program.

**C. Enabling Resolution/By Laws Discussion-** Staff had no update as staff has not heard back from County Counsel.

**D. Tree Equity Score-** Ms. Morrissey asked Mr. Vig if he had anything to add about the American Forests Tree Equity Score. Ms. Mallm said this article came to the Council's attention in the summer while the west coast was experiencing a heat wave. Mr. Vig said the heat waves in the west coast devastated wildlife. Mr. Sarrinikolaou said the shade tree division tries to replace trees that are removed with consideration for site conditions such as soil and drainage.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. NJ Back Bay Study Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Study, US Army Corps of Engineers-** Ms. Mallm called attention to a USACE study that was released. The tentatively selected plan which includes areas around the Monmouth Shark River Inlet, Manasquan Inlet, and the rest of the southern NJ coast. The study proposes storm surge barriers at Manasquan Inlet and elevating existing structures in the other project areas in Monmouth County. Ms. Mallm said there is a public webinar on September 20 and September 21 and comments will be accepted until October 12.

**6. MEMBER REPORTS:**

- Mr. Thompson no report.
- Ms. Morrissey shared the winning photos from the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee photo contest. Ms. Morrissey asked how the Council can partner with the AmeriCorps watershed ambassador.
- Mr. Vig said Colts Neck is continuing to work on Sustainable Jersey certification.
- Ms. DiLorenzo acknowledged significant impact from Hurricane Ida across the state and is concerned with how climate change is contributing to storm events.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ms. Morrissey opened for public comment. Upon hearing no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn and Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.