

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, October 3 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 5:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Jennifer DiLorenzo, Wilma Morrissey, Scott Thompson, France Karras

Members Absent: Paul Johnson, David Kostka, John Vig

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Linda Brennen

Public Present: None

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

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. **Chairman-** Ms. Morrissey offered an article from the Coast Star on the Monmouth County Open Space Plan and discussed open space in Wall Township and surrounding area.

B. **Planning Board-** Ms. DiLorenzo noted that the Monmouth County Planning Board received a presentation on the Draft Monmouth County Open Space plan from Monmouth County Parks Planner, Paul Gleitz. Ms. DiLorenzo recalled that goal of the Plan is connect parks through greenways and acquisition. Ms. DiLorenzo also stated that the Planning board signed a resolution supporting the NJ Coastal Collation which encourages resilience planning and projects.

C. **Staff-** Ms. Mallm described the October Dates to Remember. She also recalled her attendance at Monmouth University's marine plastic panel and noted that presenters sated that more research is needed to confirm health impacts from microplastics. Ms. Brennen provided an update on the Raritan Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study. Ms. Brennen informed the Council that Division of Planning Staff, along with other members of the planning study team, including

Project Manager, Daniel Barone, Michael Baker International, Dennis Blazak, Community Plans and Liaison Officer, Naval Weapons Station Earle and Debby DeJong, Monmouth County Division of Engineering and Traffic Safety Engineering, have been meeting with the land owners/managers of the project sites to obtain the consent and final input before the projects are brought before the TAC in October.

D. **Legislation-** Ms. Mallm reported recent bills. Bill A4492, as amended by the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on June 10, 2019, proposes to establish the "Jersey Native Plants Program" in the Department of Agriculture. The bill requires the Department, in conjunction with the State Board of Agriculture, to develop a program that encourages and promotes the sale of New Jersey native plants at retail garden centers and nurseries; increases consumer awareness of the important role of native plants in the ecosystem through advertising campaigns and marketing programs; provides for the dissemination of information about the variety and availability of New Jersey native plants; and create a labeling program to identify native plants as "Jersey Natives" similar to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs. Bill A5011, passed by the Assembly, received in the Senate and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee on June 10, 2019, proposes to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and promotion of all consumer products containing micro beads. State law places a prohibition on personal care products, and the federal "Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015" prohibits the manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of rinse-off cosmetics containing micro beads. Bill A5011 expands on both of these laws by including all consumer products

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Fall Roundtable & Eco-Tips Brochure-** Ms. Mallm updated the Council on plans for the October 29th fall roundtable. Ms. Mallm explained plans for the "The Be Part of the Plastic Pollution" tabling session. Municipalities with adopted single-use plastic bag ban ordinances or effective plastic reduction education campaigns were invited to have a display table to showcase their efforts. So far participation is confirmed from Asbury Park and Red Bank, the Council discussed other municipalities that may be able to display. Next Ms. Mallm offered a draft of the Eco-Tips brochure to be shared at the Roundtable and the Council provided comments. Ms. Mallm will make revisions and gain the appropriate approvals prior to the final copy's debut at the event.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Draft Monmouth County Open Space Plan-** The Council continued a discussion regarding the Monmouth County Draft Open Space Plan including goals for acquisition and expansion of County parks.

7. **REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS:**

Bayshore: Ms. Karras reported her attendance at the Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting for a special presentation from Gretchen Fowles on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey

(CHANJ) project. Ms. Fowles presented a mapping tool that identifies wildlife habitat and attempts to connect how wildlife move around the state. Ms. Karras said she learned bobcat habitat is fragmented which is contributing to population reduction. Ms. Karras also informed the Council that she will be attending the ANJEC Environmental Congress.

Navesink Valley: No report.

North Coast: Ms. DiLorenzo reported recent dolphin and whale activity off the coast. She also noted the success of the PBA food truck festival at Monmouth Beach.

Mid Coast: Mr. Thompson recapped the success of Clean Ocean Action's annual surfing competition. The contest had roughly 90 participants and 250-300 people on the beach.

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.
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Ms. Karras made the motion to adjourn and Ms. DiLorenzo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

October 3, 2019
South Coast Region Report (Final)
Wilma Morrissey

Avon-by-the-Sea

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — Avon officials held a workshop during Monday night's meeting to discuss the **redevelopment of the north end of Main Street as well as possible changes to the zoning code.**

The borough designated the north end of Main Street as an —area in need of rehabilitation during a meeting on Oct. 22, 2018. The designated area, on the west side of Main Street, runs from the border of Avon and Bradley Beach at the site of the former Schneider's Restaurant south to Norwood Avenue.

Borough Administrator Kerry McGuigan said Avon officials are —discussing the potential overlay zone for that area.

Belmar

BELMAR — **FEMA says Belmar must return \$1M in aid for boardwalk repair**

An overpayment of \$1,007,000 in aid for Belmar's boardwalk reconstruction will have to be repaid to the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], according to federal, state and borough officials.

Superstorm Sandy devastated the borough in October 2012. After the storm, FEMA helped to fund reconstruction efforts in Belmar, including reconstructing the 1.3 mile-boardwalk along Ocean Avenue.

According to FEMA, funds from the agency were distributed locally by the state, which have served as the grantee for the project. According to a July 7 letter to the borough from the Office of The New Jersey Attorney General —a review of public assistance records applicable to Disaster 4086 [Superstorm Sandy] has determined that Belmar Borough was overpaid in FEMA funds for projects #4085 [construction of the boardwalk]. This overpayment must be returned to the NJ Office of Emergency Management.

The letter stated that "The authority [Belmar] was previously paid a total of \$8,612,401.44, resulting in an overpayment of \$1,007,778.60."

"They [FEMA] would like their money back," Mayor Mark Walsifer said at the council's September. 17 meeting.

The borough began the reconstruction of the boardwalk in January 2013. Epic Management Inc. of Piscataway, was hired to complete the project. The boardwalk was completed in time for Memorial Day weekend that same year.

Bradley Beach

BRADLEY BEACH — **Council approves plan for plastic film waste collection**

Bradley Beach will partner with SC Johnson Company in a pilot program to collect and recycle plastic film waste.

The one-year pilot program will begin on Nov. 13. Residents will be asked to put clean and dry plastic film items into a plastic bag, tie the top of the bag and then put the bag into a curbside bin which will be provided by the borough.

The items will then be collected and taken to the Bradley Beach Department of Public Works and, ultimately, sold to —an end market purchaser, according to a statement from SC Johnson. 2

At the borough council's meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24, members voted to approve an ordinance to buy a Kubota, a utility vehicle, for \$27,762.74, which will be used for the collection of plastic film in the borough. S.E. Johnson is expected to reimburse the borough \$27,250 for the purchase. An agreement between the borough and SC Johnson was signed on Aug. 13.

"This is a win for the environment, a win for Bradley Beach residents and a win for the plastic recycling market," said Gary Engelstad, Mayor of Bradley Beach." By participating in this program, residents can help safeguard our coast and minimize our plastic waste. We thank SC Johnson for helping us make this a reality.

The borough has taken its own steps to reduce plastic film waste in the environment. At the start of the year, a ban on plastic bags took effect in Bradley Beach.

BRADLEY BEACH The first annual blood drive at Bradley Beach Elementary School is scheduled for Friday, October 11

The drive will be held at Bradley Beach Elementary School, located at 515 Brinley Avenue, from 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. "It's our first one but we are hoping it will be the first annual," Donna Hamernick, a first-grade teacher at the elementary school helping to organize the event, said.

Lake Como

LAKE COMO — The 24th annual Lake Como Day was held Saturday, Sept. 28, and drew a turnout of around 800 attendees.

Manasquan

MANASQUAN — The borough achieved a record-breaking beach revenue total for the 2019 summer season, topping the \$2 million mark by collecting \$87,636 more than during the 2018 beach season.

This year's beach revenue totaled \$2,071,561, compared to \$1,983,925 in 2018, according to Erik Ertle, Manasquan Beach and Recreation superintendent.

—Overall we had a fantastic summer," he said. —We did introduce Community Pass this year for the online purchasing of badges and it worked out fantastic.

Point Pleasant

Point Pleasant Beach

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Thousands flocked to Point Pleasant Beach on Saturday to celebrate the **42nd annual Festival of the Sea.**

Adopted 11/7/19

Locals and visitors alike strolled along Arnold and Bay avenues browsing the displays of 250 craft vendors, who offered art, jewelry, apparel and other unique items. Attendees also listened to local musicians while enjoying seafood and other delicacies from 23 restaurants as well as wine from the vineyards of Laurita Winery.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Earlier this year, the Boy Scouts of America [BSA] launched a program aimed at integrating girls ages 11-17 into the organization. Now, Troop 600 of Point Pleasant Beach will join the five other all-female Scouts BSA troops in the Jersey Shore area.

The troop will be led by Scoutmaster Tracy James, who spearheaded the creation of Troop 600 in order to bring her family full of scouts closer together and provide an opportunity for local girls to get involved. Troop 600 will have meetings and be —linked with Troop 6 — an already active male-only troop her son, Joshua, is a part of.

“We’re not reinventing the wheel. I think it’s really important for us to always remember that we all have skills and talents. It doesn’t matter if it’s a boy or a girl. I think it’s teaching them more or less how to partner together,” said Ms. James.

The National Executive Board of the BSA welcomed female-only BSA troops into the fold on Feb. 1, 2019. Ms. James’s daughter, Julianna, joined the closest female troop she could find that same month, Troop 402, located in Jackson. The troop is linked with the male-only group, Troop 204.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH— A partnership between local organizations aims to reduce the waste of fresh fish that cannot be sold through a process known as gleaning was announced at a press conference last Friday at the Fishermen’s Dock Cooperative on Channel Drive.

Three fishing vessels that participate in the program out of Point Pleasant Beach, the Ariana Maria, Kaiely Ann and Amber Wave, were thanked and received certificates for reeling in the largest quantities of fish for the program, according to Brick Wenzel, founder of America’s Gleaned Seafood, a nonprofit dedicated to facilitating this program.

Gleaning is the collecting of excess fresh foods from farms, restaurants — and now from fishermen — to give to those in need. The Tyson Foods Protein Innovation Fund contributed a \$50,000 grant to kickstart the pilot project.

—Gleaning is an important tool in the fight against hunger. Perfectly good fish are routinely getting thrown overboard or worse ... thrown in a dumpster. What a waste, especially considering one in 10 people don’t know where their next meal is coming from. Fulfill 4

[foodbank] serves 136,000 people per year who are food insecure, 50,000 of them children. This new program will provide these families with an additional source of healthy protein in their diets,” said Fulfill CEO and President Kim Guadagno, New Jersey’s former lieutenant governor, at the press conference.

Adopted 11/7/19

POINT PLEASANT BEACH— The mayor and council proclaimed September —Hunger Action Month in Point Pleasant Beach during last week's council meeting, and announced the borough's commitment to working with Fulfill, a local food bank, to raise awareness about the need to combat hunger.

Fulfill, formerly known as the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, was represented by Donald Holford, its chief financial officer, at the Sept. 17 meeting. Mr. Holford accepted the proclamation on behalf of the nonprofit and shared with those in attendance the steps Fulfill has taken to become more than just a food bank.

Sea Girt

Edgemere Park revitalization is underway. A crew of helpers cleared out invasive plant species at Edgemere Park on Saturday, September 21. This was phase 1 of Charlie Kane's Eagle Scout project to restore the park.

Spring Lake

Borough moves forward with 5G cell limitations. The borough council approved an ordinance give Spring Lake some control over the addition of 5G cellular equipment and possible new poles on borough streets. The borough attorney anticipates the technology is coming since receiving notice from Verizon along with a few other cell carriers.

Spring Lake Heights

Kindergarteners from Spring Lake Heights Elementary School will embark on the **annual field trip to the Spring Lake Heights Independent Fire company's fire house** on Wednesday, October 9. The students will meet and speak with the firemen who serve their community.

Wall Township

WALL TOWNSHIP – **County officials are inviting residents to an Oct. 2 public information-and-comment session on the updated draft of the 2019 Monmouth County Open Space Plan.** The plan includes a wish list for hundreds of future open-space acquisitions scattered throughout the county that might expand its 43 parks and conservation areas.

In southeast Monmouth County, the plan envisions future expansion of Shark River Park and the Bel-Aire Golf Course in Wall Township and Fisherman's Cove Recreation Area in Manasquan. It also suggests extending the Capital to Coast Trail, which includes the Edgar Felix Memorial Bicycle Path.

The public session, hosted by the Monmouth County Park System, will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, 331 Georgia

Tavern Road, Howell. Public comment will help the county to prioritize land acquisition efforts, park officials said.

WALL TOWNSHIP — **Families and their furry friends strutted around the Wall Municipal Complex on Sunday for the 3rd annual Tutus and Tails Dog Walk**, presented by Rescue Ridge and Manasquan Bank. 5

The event, which featured a walk around the park as well as a pet therapy fashion show, canine demonstrations, music and other family fun, raised money for the care and well-being of homeless animals at Rescue Ridge.

Ruthie Abady, director of fundraising said she was —amazed by all the lovell of the attendees, as well as the vendors, who came out to support the shelter.

“Our goal for everything we do is to save more animals. ll she said. —Taking care of an animal is expensive and we don’t turn away any animals because of a medical condition or a specific breed condition.”

WALL TOWNSHIP — Saturday dawned sunny and warm, a perfect fall morning for the **annual Wall Township Kids Fishing Derby**. More than 200 children and their families turned out, lining Lower Kessler Pond off Hospital Road for a chance to try their luck. Although many fish were caught, none were keepers. That’s because this year, instead of offering prizes for the biggest fish caught, the derby practiced catch-and-release.

WALL TOWNSHIP — Allenwood Elementary School students, wearing mascot —Green Dragon ll T-shirts, gathered in the schoolyard on Friday afternoon for a **ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the school’s newly installed playground equipment**, donated by the Parent Teacher Group [PTG].

Excerpts from the Coast Star.