

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, November 7, 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: Wilma Morrissey, France Karras, David Kostka, Scott Thompson, John Vig

Members Absent: Jennifer DiLorenzo, Paul Johnson

Staff Present: Amber Mallm, Linda Brennen, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Maggie Sager

Guests Present: Dennis Blazak, Community Plans and Liaison Officer, Naval Weapons Station Earle

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

With a quorum, Ms. Karras made a motion to approve the October minutes, Mr. Thompson seconded. The October minutes were adopted.

4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. **Chairman-** Ms. Morrissey provided a summary of the article titled, "How Drugs are Polluting our Water," see attached. The article reveals that a US Geological Survey found traces of over-the counter and prescription drugs in lakes, rivers, and tap water. While the article claims humans can urinate components of drugs which are often not removed during wastewater treatment processes, the article also stressed the importance of disposing of medications safely. The Council discussed local prescription drug drop off locations and the importance of finishing a drug as it is prescribed.

B. **Planning Board-** As Ms. DiLorenzo was absent and excused, Ms. Mallm and Ms. Brennen summarized the October Planning Board Meeting. Mr. Paul Gleitz informed the board that the board of Recreation Commissions adopted the Monmouth County open Space plan As the Monmouth County Open Space Plan will be adopted as part of the Monmouth County Master Plan, the Board will hold a public hearing at the December 16 2019 meeting. At the October Planning

Board meeting, Ms. Brennen also provided an update to the JLUS 2 Sandy Hook Raritan Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study.

C. **Staff-** Ms. Mallm described the November Dates to Remember.

D. **Legislation-** Ms. Brennen reported that senate bill S606 was signed into law yesterday November 6, 2019. The Bill amends the Municipal Land Use Law to encourage municipalities to plan for electric vehicle charging stations by requiring mapping of locations of existing and proposed electric vehicle charging stations Land Use and Circulation plans and for the Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Plan Element. It calls for reexamination reports to include a review of potential locations for charging stations and existing development regulations to determine if any might require modification for development of charging station infrastructure. The Council then discussed local EV charging station infrastructure

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Fall Roundtable & Eco-Tips Brochure Recap-** The Council recounted the recent roundtable, "The Problem with Plastics." The Council agreed the event was well attended and the audience was engaged.

B. **JLUS 2 Sandy Hook Raritan Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study Update-** Ms. Brennen shared examples of revisions made to concept plans following concept plan meetings with the various land managers which include municipalities and County agencies. Ms. Brennen expects the TAC will receive the draft Plan in around the end of the month to review. The Plan will be presented at the December Planning Board meeting. Mr. Blazak Community Plans and Liaison Officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle explained the purpose of this Plan is to identify potential resilience based projects that would protect Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle facilities and the surrounding Bayshore community from coastal hazards. Mr. Blazak also mentioned NWS Earle is seeking funding to improve stormwater by restoring the sinuosity of Manasquan River, and develop a micro-grid in Middletown. Mr. Blazak also discussed the Sikes Act, which ensures that military installations conserve natural resources on their installations. Mr. Blazak also spoke of the potential development of Sentinel Landscapes in New Jersey. These are areas of land surrounding installations that are recognized by the Federal departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Interior. Where funding is made and available, the Departments work to conserve land and encourage best management practices working with private land owners to protect natural landscapes and maintain compatible land uses.

C. **Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE Pipeline) Update-** Ms. Mallm informed the council that the Army Corps of Engineers –NY District issued Supplemental Public Notice NAN-2016-00908-A-EHA regarding the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, Northeast Supply Enhancement project, proposed dredged materials for ocean placement. Staff reviewed the Notice and found that it only evaluates the condition of the sampled sediment for proposed HARS placement, which was found to be not toxic and appropriate

for placement. However, the Council discussed that the material could be used for beneficial reuse, and discussed that a comment letter should point out that there are local projects which could use fine-grained material. Ms. Mallm and Ms. Brennen will prepare a comment letter and submit it to the Army Corps of Engineers-NY District.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of 2019-2020 AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Maggie Sager-

Ms. Sager introduced herself to the Council and described her background in marine science; she is excited to spend her service year working in the freshwater environment. Ms. Sager is planning a clean-up at Sandy Hook, Plum Island, on November 30. Ms. Sager is also planning a large clean-up along the Henry Hudson Trail to take place this spring.

B. New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Site Review Comment Letter- NJ Sea Grant is seeking public comments during its Site Review performed by the National Sea Grant College Program, the evaluation will impact the organizations grants, funding, research and programming. The Council would like to prepare a comment letter supporting the Program. The Council discussed NJ Sea Grant's environmental education efforts and research efforts which are valuable to the State. Ms. Kostka made a motion to prepare a letter of support to NJ Sea Grant and Mr. Thompson seconded a motion, a voice vote was unanimously in favor. Staff will prepare a letter. With Ms. Morrissey's review and approval, staff will submit the letter by the November 12 2019 deadline.

C. Spring Roundtable Planning- The Council discussed potential ideas for the spring roundtable including harmful algal blooms, invasive plants and pests, or water quality. Ms. Mallm stated that Mr. Kyle Clonan, of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, expressed interest in presenting an update to the Manasquan Reservoir Hydrilla Management project at the December MCEC meeting and would also be interested in presenting at the next roundtable. The Council directed Ms. Mallm to schedule Mr. Clonan to present at the next MCEC meeting. While the Council did not select a particular topic for the next roundtable, they did select the date of Wednesday April 29, 2020.

- 7. Executive Order 89-** Ms. Brennen described Governor Murphy's Executive Order 89, the Council also received Ms. Brennen's summary prior to today's meeting. This Executive Order reinforces recent policies to make state government more proactive in managing and assisting with resilience planning efforts. This is intended to be accomplished through the creation of an Interagency Council on Climate Resilience to develop and implement a Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy, and the naming of a Chief State Resilience Officer to direct the new Climate and Flood Resilience Program.

8. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS:

Bayshore: Ms. Karras reported her attendance at ANJEC Environmental Congress

North Coast: Mr. Kostka said he shared information on recycling at the Colts Neck Environmental Council Meeting and is working on preparing an article on plastics which will include tips for businesses and individuals.

Mid Coast: Mr. Thompson had nothing to report

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

Pan Handle: No report

Pine Barrens: No report.

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Mr. Vig made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

November 7, 2019
South Coast Region Report (Final)
Wilma Morrissey

Avon-by-the-Sea:

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — The commissioners introduced and passed the first reading of four new ordinances that would amend chapter 113 of the borough's zoning code, as well as one that will amend the officers and employees ordinance.

At Monday night's meeting Mayor John Magrini said, —This has been worked on for a long time between the commissioners and the zoning and planning board.¶

Many of the changes and additions were discussed during a workshop session on Sept. 9. Mayor Magrini said some of the changes include height restrictions based on the size of a lot, setbacks on property and —definitions that just need to be clarified.¶

—You can read an awful lot into those zoning ordinances and interpretations vary, so this tightens it up a little bit,¶ Commissioner Robert Mahon said. He added that many of the proposed changes came from the zoning officer based on —situations that developed with the old code.¶

—Another one of the changes which I think is pretty positive is it gives the building code official the ability to grant reliefs without people having to go for a variance,¶ said Commissioner Frank Gorman, giving the examples of placing an emergency power generator or central air conditioning unit in the home.

First-grade students learn from chick hatching program

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — First-graders at Avon Elementary School took part in a two-week chick hatching program to begin their science unit about animal characteristics.

The eggs arrived on Monday, Oct. 7, from Quiver Farm, based in Pennsylvania, and began to hatch on Monday, Oct. 14. Every day the students would monitor the temperature in the incubator and rotate the eggs, until the chicks began to hatch.

—Giving the students an opportunity to have a hands-on experience with an animal is a great way for students to not only identify animal characteristics, but also see how each characteristic helps the animal to move, eat, communicate, etc,¶ said Abbey Doane, first-grade teacher.

After the chicks hatched students made daily observations, held and interacted with the chicks, and then shared their experiences with other students. —The first-graders learned so much and were amazed each day by the experiences that they had with the chicks,¶ Ms. Doan

Belmar:

BELMAR — A 24-foot cuddy vessel was found submerged at the Belmar Manutti Marina Thursday morning.

According to Borough Administrator Edward Kirschenbaum Sr., the boat, which was located on the J-dock, was found by employees of the marina during their morning walkthrough to ensure that boats were secure.

Department of Public Works responded to the scene, along with the borough's emergency services, which were able to boom off the area of the submerged vessel because there was a leak of gasoline and oil, according to the borough administrator. Monmouth County Hazmat responded to the scene, along with TowBoatUS to help remove the boat from its slip and get it out of the water.

It is believed that the sinking was caused by last night's storm. The owner of the vessel has been notified.

BELMAR — As floodwaters on Oct. 10 engulfed the borough beachfront on the east and the Shark River overflowed and flooded portions of Route 35 on the west, local environmental commissions met at the Taylor Pavilion to discuss a future made bleak by rising sea levels and flood premiums.

The event was hosted by the Belmar Environmental Commission, which invited commissions from Lake Como, Spring Lake and Neptune City. Krista Sperber, a Belmar resident and new member of the Belmar Environmental Commission, led the presentation and did not mince words about the future threat.

—By 2100, we are poised to lose 600 homes to chronic flood inundation, and that is going to start in the K Street neighborhood — that is going to be the epicenter, said Ms. Sperber, who is also a founding member of New Jersey Organizing Project. The group has worked to get residents back into homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Bradley Beach:

BRADLEY BEACH — The borough decided Tuesday to request proposals to transform an abandoned pump station on the promenade into a concession stand.

This is the second time the borough has approved a request for proposals [RFP] for the project. In August, the borough council turned down two proposals after several members of the council and public cited a lack of transparency about the selection process.

According to Mayor Gary Engelstad, the governing body received input from the special beachfront task force the borough created as part of its strategic planning.

Brielle:

RIELLE — The borough council Monday approved a resolution accepting a \$315,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation [NJDOT].

The council has earmarked the use of the entire \$315,000 of the grant for improvements to Union Lane in Brielle. The authorization was originally approved in August but the borough's business administrator, Thomas Nolan, said that new resolution has been submitted —because the resolution contained a typo. So we have to resubmit the resolution.

The resolution made at the council meeting, will amend the borough's 2019 budget and add the grant as a revenue.

Lake Como:

LAKE COMO — The Borough of Lake Como has decided to move forward with purchasing the former South Belmar First Aid Building located on 18th Avenue.

The former South Belmar First Aid squad originally had the opportunity to purchase the borough's portion of the property, but was unable to do so.

The Borough of Lake Como had two options: They could sell the property with the South Belmar First Aid Squad or they could buy the property outright.

Bamboo ban approved by borough council

LAKE COMO — After holding a second reading and public comment session council members voted to no longer allow the planting of running bamboo. No members of the public spoke during public comment. This ordinance will become effective 30 days after Tuesday's council meeting.

The ordinance states that any existing running bamboo may not be replanted or replaced after any of the existing bamboo has died or been removed.

Running bamboo is defined in the ordinance as any running woody grass from the genera of bamboo including, but not limited to, bambusa, phyllostachys and pseudosasa, as well as common bamboo, golden bamboo and arrow bamboo.

Point Pleasant Beach:

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Point Pleasant Beach bested Manasquan 6-4 at the second annual Manasquan Inlet Intracoastal Tug on Saturday, Oct. 12.

When Point Pleasant Beach was announced as the winner of this year's Inlet Tug, participants and event onlookers on Beach's side of the inlet erupted in a cacophony of cheers. The Mayor's Trophy had made its way across the inlet, a year after the borough's loss to Manasquan the first time around.

Educational partnership teaches students about the environment

POINT PLEASANT BEACH— St. Peter School [SPS] and Jenkinson's Aquarium are halfway through their six-week educational partnership that gives the school's third and seventh-graders a chance to learn outside of the classroom, and maybe even adopt a penguin.

For 45 minutes on Thursdays and Fridays, specialists from various departments at Jenkinson's Aquarium impart their environmental and marine knowledge upon the Catholic school's third and seventh-graders.

With young environmental activists like Greta Thunberg providing a platform for other young activists to voice their opinions, the partnership comes at a time when the conversation surrounding climate change includes members of every generation.

—These programs are designed to explore habitats, raise awareness about conditions of habitats, address the causes of these conditions, and encourage behavior changes to make a positive global impact, said Tracey Korbin, St. Peter School's principal.

—Over the summer, I worked on creating an educational partnership with Jenkinson's Aquarium, and they were extremely excited to put together a program with us. The idea was to be able to offer special off-campus programs that would provide

Adopted 12/5/19

innovative and enriching learning opportunities for our students. Jenkinson's Aquarium is such a wonderful resource, and it's only a few blocks away, so what better community partner could there be?

Sea Girt:

SEA GIRT — Sea Girt Police Chief Kevin Davenport presented his yearly report on the borough's highly controversial ride-share zone.

Chief Davenport said the zone has been highly effective this year preserving the "public safety" of residents and bar patrons alike.

The zone was created by the borough council in 2018, as a recommendation by Chief Davenport, to control traffic safety in the area surrounding The Parker House.

The chief also gave three options moving forward as recommendations to the council: extend the zone by four parking spots moving north on Ocean Avenue, keep the current location of the zone but add easier access to the boardwalk therefore routing patrons to walk along the boardwalk or removing the zone completely, which the chief did not recommend.

Spring Lake:

Witches of Spring Lake take to their paddleboards

SPRING LAKE — Witches were seen paddleboarding around Spring Lake on Sunday to celebrate the season and attract residents and visitors to the borough's downtown.

Despite the looming danger of possibly falling in and melting, the group of 13 launched their boards on a unique occasion all in the name of fun and to show their Halloween spirit.

Spring Lake Heights:

Spring Lake Heights Elementary is the latest school to join the Suburban and Urban Schools Health Initiative [SUSHI], an after-school program based at Allaire Community Farm in Wall Township. The two-year-old program pairs fourth-grade students from suburban schools with fourth-graders from urban ones. The groups then learn together during weekly, one-hour meetings at the farm.

Spring Lake Heights science teacher Caryn Wojcik is in charge of the school's SUSHI Club, which currently features 11 student participants. During their first visit to the farm, her students were joined by members of Bradley Elementary School in Asbury Park, one of SUSHI's first participating schools. The children toured the 25-and-a-half acre farm in a tractor, meeting its animal residents and tasting its organic produce.

Ms. Wojcik described the farm's food as an —equalizer between students hailing from different socio-economic backgrounds.

—One of the great things about food and taste is that we can all find similarities in what we like or don't like, she said. —When you bite into a raw radish, I think everybody makes the same face ... it makes a level playing field and commonalities between [the schoolchildren].

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS — **The borough has applied for a \$175,000 grant from the Monmouth County Municipal Open Space Grant Program. If allocated, the grant will fund part of the borough's planned \$350,000 renovation of Wreck Pond and Shore Road,** according to Councilwoman Sara King at the borough council meeting held Monday, Oct. 7.

The project's proposed scope will include two access piers with gazebos, a floating dock with a kayak launch, nature trails and elevated timber walkways —to improve access to the water and the view, Ms. King said.

If the funds are approved, construction is estimated to begin in March 2021, Ms. King said.

A group of Shore Road residents had raised concerns regarding the appearance and safety of Wreck Pond and the surrounding area at the council's Sept. 16 meeting. They cited overgrowth of poison ivy and other vines.

Wall Township:

WALL TOWNSHIP — High winds left downed lines, building damage at airport Friday

A burst of 100-mph straight-line winds destroyed a building and tossed a large recreational vehicle 50 feet at Monmouth Executive Airport around 1 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, according to the National Weather Service [NWS]. —I've never seen wind damage like that, not even in hurricanes, Ms. King said. Wall Township Construction Official Robert Torrance. No injuries were reported in the storm.

5

WALL TOWNSHIP – More than 50,000 people turned out in the Dutch city of Maastricht in September for a parade to welcome back many dozens of aging Allied World War II veterans on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of southern part of the Netherlands.

—It was like a ticker-tape parade in New York City on VE day in 1945. People were shaking their hands, literally in tears, as the veterans rode along in World War II-era Jeeps, said Michael Malone, a Wall Township police officer who accompanied them.

—It was wonderful to see the gratitude and the graciousness of the Dutch. Our veterans were blown away by how these people didn't forget, he said.

Ptl. Malone was among the nine volunteers serving as caretakers for nine U.S. veterans brought on a 10-day trip to the Netherlands courtesy of the nonprofit Best Defense Foundation [BDF], which received a \$20,000 donation from the Wall PBA Local 234's Rockefeller Memorial Foundation to help with the costs.

One stop on their tour was the city hall in nearby Bastogne, Belgium, where Ptl. Malone presented Deputy Mayor Coralie Bonnet with a certificate from Wall Township Police Department and photo of the 2018 unveiling at police headquarters of a statue depicting the late Wall resident Harry J. Rockefeller as a major while fighting with the U.S. 4th Armored Division at Bastogne in December 1944.

WALL TOWNSHIP — The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Communications High School as a National Blue Ribbon School, an honor that pays tribute to academic

excellence. The magnet school on New Bedford Road is one of only nine among the thousands of schools in New Jersey selected to receive the coveted distinction for 2019.

Communications High School, one of five Monmouth County Vocational School District career academies, focuses its rigorous curriculum on television, radio, design, journalism and photography. It draws its 312 students from all school districts in the more than 50 municipalities in Monmouth County.

—There is no other school in the country like Communications High School. It's always pushing the boundaries of what modern education should be in the 21st century, ll said Brigid McCarthy, a junior from Manasquan.

Excerpts from the Coast Star

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How Drugs are Polluting Our Water

JANUARY 20, 2019 BY ADMIN

by: Ingrid Justick

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The U.S. Geological Survey found **traces of over-the-counter and prescription drugs**, including hormones from birth control pills, **in lakes, rivers, ground and tap water**. Our septic systems or treatment plants are not designed to remove drugs from wastewater. Scientists are trying to

determine the effect the exposure to this mixture of drugs has on our environment. Early studies show that **even small amounts of pharmaceutical products in our water affect the health of our aquatic life, our health and all life on earth**. Some of these micro-pollutants break down naturally when exposed to sunlight. But most chemicals in drugs degrade very slowly or not at all, and enter our waterways.

Few people think about what happens to medicines after they do their work in the body. **Most ingested drugs** actually pass out of the body with urine and **make their way into our groundwater**. You can **minimize their polluting effects** by selecting remedies and other products with fewer synthetic and toxic ingredients whenever possible. Finish your prescribed medications. Also:

- **Dispose of medications safely:** Do not pour unused portions down the drain. Instead, return medications to a local pharmacy or hospital that accepts toxic waste.
- **Buy nonprescription drugs in small enough quantities** so you can use them before the expiration date. If you must toss drugs, leave them in their container and wrap it up tightly in a small plastic bag to minimize that the drug will leech into the groundwater at the garbage disposal center.
- **Filter your water.** Reverse osmosis systems or granular activated carbon filters work to remove inorganic pollutants.
- **Urge legislators** to devote resources to developing a **nationwide plan for the safe disposal** of over-the-counter and prescription medication.
- **Support research efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey's Toxic Substance Hydrology Program**, which is testing our water for micro-pollutants. Under proposed budget cuts it may lose most of its federal funding.

Our Earth was formed as a sacred space, protecting us with a life-giving atmosphere. Please protect our Earth.

For environmentally friendly information call: 732-922-2935

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FILED UNDER: OUR ENVIRONMENT:

UPCOMING EVENTS