

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP  
*Director of Planning*



MICHAEL FEDOSH  
*Council Chairman*

### Proposed Agenda for a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

**Thursday, December 1, 5:00 p.m.**

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

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**—Chairman Fedosh called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
  2. **ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE**  
Members Present: Mike Fedosh, Barbara Horl, Wilma Morrissey, John Vig, France Karras, Nicholas Huszar, and David Kostka.  
Members Absent: Ebru Altinsoy, Scott Thompson, Jennifer DiLorenzo  
Staff Present: Linda Brennen and Kyle Clonan  
Public Present: Meg Ragan, Brookdale Community College Political Science student
  3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** November 3, 2016  
The minutes from the Council’s November 3, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Morrissey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Fedosh. The minutes were approved by a voice vote with Mr. Kotska and Ms. Karras abstaining.
  4. **REGULAR REPORTS**
    - A. Chairman—No Report.
    - B. Planning Board—No report.
    - C. Staff—Staff discussed the new additions to the Division of Planning staff. Mr. Mike Davenport has joined the GIS section after previously working with Conserve Wildlife New Jersey. David Schmetterer has become the Principal Planner of the Transportation Planning section.
    - D. Legislation—Mr. Clonan reported S981/A2375, a bill which seeks to reform certain provisions of the NJ Electronic Waste Management Act, has passed both the NJ State Senate and State Assembly and has been brought to the governor. Mr. Clonan also reported that the Christie Administration and NJDEP announced the availability of \$67.5 million in Green Acres funding; the NJDEP is accepting applications through February 12, 2017. Mr. Clonan also summarized the Environmental & Sustainability Planning Section’s current review of JCP&L’s petition to the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) regarding their Storm Recovery Cost (SRC) Tariff.
  5. **OLD BUSINESS**
    - A. MCEC Hydroponics Roundtable—The Council discussed logistics of the planned Roundtable, concluding the event should start at 6:30 and will feature an introductory speaker highlighting the pros,

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cons, and logistics of hydroponic farming. Three separate speakers will then be invited to speak on their individual experiences for approximately ten minutes each. Staff will invite one speaker each to represent the commercial community, a not-for-profit cause, and an educational aspect of hydroponic farming. The event will take place at the Monmouth County Agricultural Building between March 28-30, 2017, depending upon the availability of the speakers. Planning staff will speak with staff of the Economic Development and Public Information Offices regarding a possible video highlighting local hydroponic farms.

B. JLUS Update—Ms. Brennen provided updates on the JLUS Study. County Planning Staff had its initial kickoff meeting with representatives of Maser Consulting and Dennis Blazek of NWS Earle. Ms. Brennen and the Maser representatives will visit Mr. Blazek for a tour of NWS Earle in the early December. Ms. Brennen reviewed the structure and composition of the different JLUS advisory committees, and invited the MCEC to select a representative. There were no immediate volunteers but the position will be revisited once there is more specific information on meeting locations and times. In the interim, meeting information will be sent to Chairman Fedosh.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Hydroponics Eco-Tips Brochure

Ms. Brennen discussed the feasibility of designing a new MCEC Eco-Tips Brochure featuring basic information on Hydroponic Farming. Mr. Clonan will draft a brochure detailing hydroponic farming, which the Council will review digitally before the Council reconvenes in February, with the goal of having it printed for the Hydroponics Roundtable in March.

## 7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

North Coast: No report.

Mid-Coast: No report.

South Coast: Ms. Morrissey gave her report (see attached).

Pine Barren: Mr. Huszar noted Howell has elected a new Mayor, Dr. Theresa Berger. He also reported there is an effort to extend the current trail from the Manasquan Reservoir to Oak Glen Park. The trail would link Oak Glen Park to Soldier Field. Complications have arisen due to the prospect of crossing Interstate 195 and other major roads.

Navesink Valley: Mr. Kotska reported Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute will host their annual Future of the Ocean Symposium and Champion of the Ocean Awards Luncheon on December 7, featuring former NJ Governor and former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman. He also noted a bill (S-317) has passed the NJ Senate and Assembly to streamline regulations surrounding "green aquaculture" in NJ and could lead to increased fish-farming in New Jersey waters. The Monmouth County Audubon Society will host a bird walk on Sandy Hook on December 10. A program by the US Department of Transportation seeks to provide charging stations for electric vehicles every 50 miles along Interstates 80 and 95 in order to create country wide "electric vehicle corridors", which will increase the amount of electric charging stations in NJ and other states.

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Mr. Kotska summarized an Asbury Park Press article reporting on Clean Ocean Action's determination that leaking septic systems in Middletown and Red Bank are contributing to increased fecal coliform bacteria levels in the Navesink River. Mr. Fedosh reviewed a report regarding the NJDEP's investigation into the elevated fecal coliform bacteria levels in the Navesink and the Department's microbial source tracking efforts to determine sources of pollution.

Bayshore: Ms. Karras reported that the Bayshore (Henry Hudson) trail is currently on hold due to concerns by the Bayshore Sewage Authority over the condition of an outfall pipe, which could be compromised by construction of the nearby trail. The Monmouth County Park System is researching insurance options or other ways to stabilize the outfall pipe. An Army Corps of Engineers Study for Many Mind Creek is underway and expected to be completed within the next few months. The feasibility study is for a flood mitigation project involving the Creek. Ms. Karras also brought the Council's attention to a November state appellate court ruling that enclosed foothold traps are an acceptable way to trap and do not violate the 1984 law banning jaw-leghold type traps. There is an assembly concurrent resolution (ACR 25) bill which determines the use of these enclosed foothold traps is inconsistent with the language and intent of the 1984 law. The resolution has passed the State Assembly and is currently being considered by the State Senate's Environment and Energy Committee. Discussion ensued. Mr. Clonan will report back on the status of the resolution at the February meeting.

### 8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Ragan introduced herself to the Council and discussed her interests.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:08 p.m.

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### **South Coast Region Report Wilma Morrissey**

#### **Bradley Beach:**

**Bradley Food Pantry goes green with help from the Bradley Beach Elementary School.** Students and locals donated reusable bags to the food pantry for the Thanksgiving holidays. Members of the BBES Environmental Club walked over to the pantry with one hundred reusable bags alongside the Instructional Advisor and co-advisor to the club to donate the bags.

**Program promotes “Buy Fresh, Buy Local” in Bradley Beach.** This program will help the borough receive Sustainable Jersey certification. In an effort to make Bradley Beach more sustainable, the Environmental Commission/Green Team want to hear from borough restaurants and food businesses that sell or use agricultural products grown or produced in New Jersey.

#### **Manasquan:**

**Free Marine Mammal Stranding Center Informational Presentation** on Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Woman’s Clubhouse 62 Main Street. Contact Mary Sommers at [maryesommers@hotmail.com](mailto:maryesommers@hotmail.com) to learn more about the MMSC and how you can help stranded marine mammals.

**The Manasquan Borough Council introduced an ordinance that would increase the municipal boat slip rental fees and change the boat slip’s term of lease.** The increase would take effect on March 1, 2017. The primary reason for the raising of the fees is to meet the \$300,000 needed for the average payback of the funding received from NJ Environmental Infrastructure Fund for the replacement of the docks and the bulkhead.

**The most vulnerable areas of the Manasquan beachfront will get increased protection from the NJDOT beach replenishment project.** The NJDOT will be delivering approximately 50,000 cubic yards of beach sand to rebuild the beach seaward between Brielle Road and the Manasquan Inlet.

#### **Spring Lake Heights:**

The Council may pass an ordinance allowing dogs in parks. After discussion at the Spring Lake Heights Environmental Commission, the Chair recommended that the borough code be amended to allow dogs in the Spring Lake Heights Parks. The proposal from the Environmental Commission would be to change the code to read: “The walking of properly leashed animals on borough property is permitted, except in the following locations: playgrounds, picnic areas, landscaped gardens, playing fields and athletic facilities including, but not limited to, tennis courts and basketball courts.”

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**Spring Lake Heights Elementary School held a student food service advisory meeting** with students, teachers, and parents to introduce the school's new cafeteria service, answering questions, and asking for suggestions as Simplified Culinary Services introduced the new healthy lunch options.

### **Spring Lake:**

Local kids install signs to protect turtles. Liam Winn and Joseph White took turns putting up signs about protecting turtles from fishing hooks around Spring Lake. When both boys found dead turtles washing ashore and live turtles struggling with fish hooks in their mouths, the young environmentalists decided to help by putting up signs that read: "Be Careful of Turtles. If you hook a turtle, remove the hook with caution."

### **Sea Girt:**

**Sea Girt to curb disturbing noise.** Building activity is to be curbed during the summer season. In addition to limiting noise, the ordinance on construction prohibitions is also expected to reduce truck traffic on streets during the summer. With fewer trucks and less construction equipment, the council expects less wear and tear on the borough's roads, more open parking spots on beach days and less traffic congestion overall.

**The Sea Girt Elementary School celebrated America Recycles Day** on November 15 by giving residents the chance to dispose of their old electronic devices. Residents dropped off their electronics at the Sea Girt School for recycling.

### **Brielle**

**Many Brielle Elementary School students participated in the national Walk to School Day.** The initiative promotes exercise for students as well as benefits to the environment while promoting safety and community bonds.

**State DOT announces bridge repairs on Rt. 35 in Brielle.** NJDOT announced the start of a project making repairs to nine bridges in the state, including the Route 35 bridges over Route 71 and Ashley Avenue in Brielle. The project is preventative and will help extend the service of the bridges.

**Brielle appropriates funds to address water tank collapse** and has hired a Howell engineering firm for consultation. The water storage tank on Old Bridge Road in Brielle collapsed on October 28.

### **Wall Township**

**The harvesting of shellfish in Shark River has been suspended due to high levels of fecal coliform in the water.** Formerly restricted -- a designation which allows for harvesting if the shellfish are depurified -- 10 harvesting stations are now classified as suspended according to DEP.

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**The Allaire Community Farm hosted a Special Needs Day** last month which gave children with special needs the opportunity to connect with farm animals while allowing families to enjoy a day free of the stresses that typically accompany a day out. Children enjoyed the petting zoo, gathering eggs in the hen house, grooming the animals, and catching a hayride. Guest had the opportunity meet the farm's new calf and decorate pumpkins.

**RaLee Wall, Manasquan resident and freshman at Biotechnology High School in Freehold hand painted Petting Zoo signs as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project at Allaire Community Farm.** She noticed a need to spruce up the petting zoo which is home to many animals such as Lily, the 500 pound pig, Grace the calf, bunnies, chickens, roosters, goats, sheep, ducks, a donkey and an alpaca.

**Animal rights activists demonstrate at Hinck's Turkey Farm.** Nearly two dozen protestors who are members and supporters of NJ Farm Animal Save, an animal rights group, held a vigil at the turkey farm to urge shoppers to reconsider the main course of their upcoming Thanksgiving meal.

### **Belmar:**

**Retail and housing units are proposed for downtown area.** The current project, called Fifth Avenue Flats, calls for a three-story mixed-used building at the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue. The building is set to contain seven retail spaces and 26 housing units divided between two floors, including two affordable housing units.

**Slate and brick sidewalks allowed under new code.** Belmar approved the change to the code to include slate and brick materials. Therefore, homeowners with slate and brick sidewalks may retain that aesthetic look when repairing or replacing them.

### **Avon by the Sea**

**The borough engineer addressed the need for testing the steel portion of the Ocean Avenue bulkhead to assess the extent of deterioration that has taken place.** The steel portion of the wall is believed to be between 75 and 80 years old, and has some areas where water is beginning to bleed through the wall.