

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP  
Director of Planning



MICHAEL FEDOSH  
Council Chairman

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

**Thursday, September 1, 2016, 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 5:05pm.

#### 2. ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mike Fedosh, Barbara Horl, Nicholas Huszar, David Kostka, Wilma Morrissey, and John Vig.

Members Absent: Ebru Altinsoy, Jennifer DiLorenzo, Scott Thompson, and France Karras.

Staff Present: Kyle Clonan and Linda Brennen.

#### 3. REVIEW OF MINUTES: June 2016

Minutes from the June 2, 2016 were reviewed. Mr. Clonan noted an error on the original minutes, which was corrected to show Mr. Huszar was in attendance and had given the Pine Barren Regional Report. Vice Chair Morrissey moved to approve the minutes, Chairman Fedosh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with Ms. Horl abstaining.

#### 4. REGULAR REPORTS

A. **Chairman** – Mr. Fedosh welcome the Environmental Council back to regular meetings after not meeting for July and attending the NWS Earle field trip in lieu of an August meeting.

B. **Planning Board** – Ms. Brennen noted the Planning Board is moving forward with the Monmouth County Master Plan, and that there will be a public hearing to consider adoption of the Master Plan at the Board's next meeting on Monday, September 19, 2016 in the Planning Board Conference Room.

C. **Staff** – Mr. Clonan shared details of a letter sent from the Planning Board Chairman to the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding proposed changes to the John J. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System. He also shared that the Environmental & Sustainability Section is working on a monthly email newsletter to share planning and environmental related news throughout the county.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Review of NWS Earle Waterfront Site Visit** –

Mr. Clonan recapped the Council's August visit to NWS Earle, noting details of the NY/NJ Baykeeper oyster restoration program, seeing the outside of the Ohmsett National Oil Spill Response Research &

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Renewable Energy Test Facility, and being driven to the base of the pier. Pictures were shown. The Council was told if they would like to see a demonstration of the Ohmsett facility in the future, Dennis Blazek of NWS Earle may be able to coordinate a demonstration with the leaders of Ohmsett.

### **B. Joint Land Use Study Grant Update –**

Ms. Brennen announced that Monmouth County has officially received a grant from the Department of Defense for a Joint Land Use Study to focus on the future of Monmouth County and NWS Earle. The planned study will investigate potential conflicts between the military installation and the surrounding communities, particularly land use conflicts, and explore solutions that will encourage municipalities and the navy to work together for mutual benefit. A particular focus of this study will include climate adaptation planning for the naval base and surrounding communities, including sea level rise, flooding, transportation corridors, and utility impacts. The original deadline for the completed report was July 2017. The County plans to apply for a no-cost time extension to have a deadline of 12/31/2017, which will give the planning professionals one year to complete the study after entering into the contract.

The grant total is \$238,500, with \$206,000 of federal grant money and \$32,500 of County in-kind match primarily through staff salaries. \$205,000 of the federal grant is earmarked for contracting a professional planning service. The Division of Planning has already met with a representative of the Office of Economic Adjustment for an introduction to the grant. Ms. Brennen briefly reviewed the timeline for the JLUS study, beginning with the upcoming Request for Professional Services. Mr. Clonan has drafted letters inviting municipalities to join in the collaborative planning study. The five municipalities in which parts of the installation are located (Colts Neck, Howell, Middletown, Tinton Falls, and Wall), will be invited to join the JLUS Policy Committee, while the additional eight municipalities within the Military Influence Area (Atlantic Highlands, Highlands, Eatontown, Farmingdale, Freehold Township, Keansburg, Neptune, and Ocean) will be invited to join the General Advisory Committee.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Navesink River Initiative** – Chairman Fedosh relayed information from his attendance at two events, driven by Clean Ocean Action (COA), surrounding the 500 acre shut down of shellfish harvesting in the Navesink River due to the elevated coliform bacteria readings. Environmental groups and fishing clubs have been in attendance in an effort to locate and eliminate pollution sources for the Navesink River. COA believes the coliform is human sourced, but more testing may be needed to be certain. COA is attempting to use sheepdogs to discover and trace human coliform sources. The best way of decreasing the coliform counts in the Navesink is still under review.

**B. Utility Routings within Monmouth County** – Ms. Brennen communicated updates on three new utility routings in the County. Currently, the New Jersey Natural Gas “Southern Reliability Link” has been gaining public awareness. The project involves creating a New Jersey Natural Gas line connection to bring gas from the supply point of the interstate pipeline in Chesterfield Township, Burlington County and continue to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in Ocean County. The routing

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does not have much effect on Monmouth County; it will go through a couple of agricultural development areas on the border of Upper Freehold but has no farmland preservation issues. By the Burlington County border of Monmouth County, there may be a staging area in a Monmouth County Park. The Monmouth County Park System is working with NJNG to review which area of the park will be in use to ensure no critical environmental areas are injured. Public outcry against the pipeline has stemmed from the proposed routing through the private property of people who will not receive any benefit from the line. The revised route was approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) in March 2016.

The JCP&L Ocean View Reinforcement Project proposes a 230kilavolt transmission line from a substation in Howell to Neptune via a substation in Colts Neck. The project goes through existing right of way and runs parallel to existing utility poles. The project received all of its approvals after Hurricane Sandy and is now under construction.

The Monmouth County Reliability Project is a proposed electrical line traveling along NJ Transit Train Rights-of-Way from Aberdeen to Red Bank. Opposition groups claim the project is proposed by an independent electricity transportation company, not JCP&L line, and so it may not really be necessary. Mr. Vig communicated points that regardless of renewable or nonrenewable electricity source, more transmission lines will be needed to transfer energy in the future. Some municipalities along the proposed power lines, from Middletown to Aberdeen, have made statements against the power line.

**C. Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan and MARCO Data Portal**—Mr. Clonan summarized the proposed Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Action Plan developed by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body. The development of the Plan has been organized by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) following an Executive Order by President Obama, which called for a National Ocean Policy. After attending a webinar from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body and a presentation hosted by ANJEC and the American Littoral Society, Mr. Clonan summarized the main points of the plan. The plan encompasses the area from Virginia to New York and 200 miles seaward. The plan's goals are to improve ocean management, increase public engagement in decision making, strengthen community resilience, and ensure a healthy ocean economy & ecosystem. A major focus is increasing coordination and information sharing between the multiple different federal agencies which have jurisdiction over the ocean. Key takeaways from the draft plan include identifying best practices for agencies to work together in undertaking their responsibilities, laying out actions the Regional Planning Body entities will take to meet the goals of the plan, and setting out a draft framework for identifying Ecologically Rich Areas.

Ecologically Rich Areas will be identified based upon their high levels of productivity, biodiversity, species abundance and habitat, areas of vulnerable and rare marine resources. An online MARCO data portal has been developed by the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute which will be used to identify these areas. The data portal is free for public use and can be found at the following web address: [www.portal.midatlanticocean.org/](http://www.portal.midatlanticocean.org/). The portal provides multiple easy to access data layers

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under the categories of Administrative, Marine Life, Renewable Energy, Fishing, Security, Recreation, Maritime, Oceanography, and Human Use Data Synthesis.

### 7. REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

**A. South Coast**—Ms. Morrissey gave her report (see attached). Ms. Horl added that the Wreck Pond restoration project is set to continue.

**B. Mid-Coast**— No report.

**C. North Coast**—No report.

**D. Navesink Valley**—

Mr. Kotska reported that the Director of Water Programs from the Pineland Preservation Alliance will give a presentation on endangered groundwater supply on September 26 at Brookdale Community College for the Jersey Shore Sierra Club meeting. He also summarized a report finding that NJ drinking water is susceptible to the presence of chemicals used in the production of Teflon. A bill focusing on public access to beaches was recently submitted to the State Senate. It is thought that this bill will help overturn court decisions which have limited public access in the past. A hearing will be held September 6 in Holmdel regarding a potential municipal ordinance to increase use of sports facilities on a Green Acre funded land which is adjacent to a Category 1 waterway used for drinking water. Clean Ocean Action will be hosting Paddle the Navesink Day September 10 and Saturday September 24 will be the Sandy Paws event. Open Space Pace will be hosted by Freehold Raceway on September 17 to promote the horse industry and open space.

**E. Pine Barren**—

Mr. Huszar reported that Howell Day will be September 24. Howell has obtained a Community Development Block Grant to upgrade all Howell municipal parks to fit standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. A summer intern for Howell completed work with the Howell Green Team regarding sustainability in the town and a building survey completed in 2011, and was able to recovery \$23,000 from a previous Sustainable Jersey project. Howell is currently working towards a silver certification from Sustainable Jersey.

**F. Bayshore**—

As she could not attend the meeting, Ms. Karras forwarded a written report (see attached). Mr. Fedosh added that the Army Corps of Engineers is continuing with the Bayshore Flood Control project around the famous Spy House in the Belford section of Middletown.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public were present.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Fedosh.

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

#### **Wall Township**

The West Nile Virus and Zika 101 Seminar was sponsored by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee on Monday, August 22, 2016. A PowerPoint presentation by Vicki Thompson, Acting Superintendent of the Mosquito Control Division on "Mosquitoes 101: The Basics of Disease Transmission and Control" and a PowerPoint presentation by Connie Polonsky, Health Education from the regional MC Health Commission provided the history, symptoms, transmission and prevention of WNV and Zika. The educational seminar also included reducing breeding areas, and the responsibilities of the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission. A question and answer session followed these informative presentations. The seminar was sponsored by the WTEAC since there were three local community positive samples from Lake and one confirmed case in Spring Lake.

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee toured the non-profit Allaire Community Farm, as guest of JoAnn and Sean Burney, in a fun hay ride observing the farm's petting zoo, barns, and gardening areas. The WTEAC held their August meeting at the farm.

Wall Township and the community joined forces in holding their nation-wide "National Night Out" on August 2 to make the community a better and safer place in a partnership between the community and police. There was a celebration of numerous activities.

The Wall Fair started June 30 and ended with fireworks on July 3. The Environmental Committee had a booth demonstrating a display of green products, County, WTEAC, and DEP literature.

The Wall Township Committee has discussed a possible ban on smoking especially since there is no ordinance. There were complaints about people smoking around children at the Wall Fair which was considered as a serious hazard.

Nick Rotonda, 15, a freshman at Wall High School, took on the restoration of the Manasquan River Boat Launch in Manasquan as his Eagle Scout project.

#### **Bradley Beach:**

The Garden Club Committee comprised of members of the school and community planted a Bradley Beach Community Garden and many of the plant boxes are overflowing with fresh fruits and vegetables. It is being jointly maintained by school faculty, students, and community volunteers.

The borough of Bradley Beach will seek a Monmouth County Open Space Grant for the purpose of improving the entirety of the Sylvan Lake bulkhead which has collapsed on the northeast corner, a section cordoned off by the Department of Public Works. This has incited the borough's insurance agency to require the municipality to take care of the damage as it is a liability issue.

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Fletcher Lake volunteers beautify park and lake. The Fletcher Lake Mini Park, located at the end of Lake Terrace toward the beachfront, is looking spruced up. The volunteer members of the Fletcher Lake Commission comprised of residents from Bradley Beach, Ocean Grove, and Neptune City planted flowers in large pots, painted the flagpoles and benches, and fixed the sign in an effort to entice beachgoers to take a seat underneath the large gazebo and enjoy a view of Fletcher Lake.

NJDOT delays new Main Street Crosswalks. Only one of the four proposed is completed and is on the Main Street crosswalks at the intersection of Main Street and Third Avenue. It now has handicap accessible ramps that are ADA compliant.

### Lake Como:

Students from the Wall High School National Honor Society recently volunteered their time by helping members of the Lake Como Environmental Commission tend to the Butterfly Garden at Lake Como.

### Manasquan:

The Manasquan Shade Tree Commission was awarded a \$30,000 grant by DEP. Manasquan has its Forestry Management Plan in place. The STC wants to plant trees in harsher areas that tend to be a little difficult in maintaining the trees. Aside from the grant, a Street Tree Program was established and a new Resident Tree Buying Program will also be implemented. For \$215, any resident can get a 10 foot tree delivered and planted anywhere in the borough.

Lilian Bryant, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Manasquan Elementary student, won first place in Monmouth County for her essay and poster about the endangered species, the Piping Plover.

Residents now have the option of signing up for a new, automated flood warning system recently implemented by the Manasquan Office of Emergency Management. This new automated alert system will notify residents of impending coastal flooding in the borough up to eight hours before it occurs.

Manasquan launches its first "Stop, Charge and Shop" program. The two charging stations were donated by Chargepoint Electric Vehicle Fast Charging Station and is located in the South Street parking lot in the heart of Manasquan's downtown business district. According to the Asbury Park Press, these two charging stations have not yet attracted people to use them. The Mayor indicated, however, that it did not cost taxpayers any money since it was donated by Chargepoint.

A humpback whale was spotted off the coast of Riddle Way beach. Manasquan residents determined the whale was fine and were thrilled by the experience.

### Belmar:

The Planning Board may expand the Seaport Redevelopment area to double in size in order to include more properties if approved.

Students at St. Rose High School were visited by Joy Reidenberg, an expert in marine mammals, for a unique presentation.

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The Belmar Fishing Club donated \$13,500 to give autistic children and their families a day at the beach

Students throughout the Manasquan High School sending districts converged on the Belmar Elementary School for the first annual MakerFest, which is an intellectual completion based on science, technology, engineering and math concepts. (STEM) The students competed to address global issues through innovative ideas. The completion drew 73 students in grades 5 through 8 from Sea Girt, Avon-By-The-Sea, Manasquan, Belmar and Spring Lake Heights who competed among students at their grade level to design products to address various global issues.

The Council approves financing for local sidewalk repairs. The borough will pay for the repairs up front and residents repay the funds incrementally with an assessment on property taxes over a five-year period. The town will get safer sidewalks, less trip hazards, and more walkable streets. There are over 300 properties identified as having damaged sidewalks.

### **Spring Lake Heights:**

There were two borough paving projects halted due to funding issues and delays at the state level. The Transportation Trust Fund is set to completely run out of money and so the borough engineer suggested getting at least one of these projects funded by the borough who will pay for the Jeanette Court paving portion of the road which is in the absolute worst shape.

The Monmouth County Mosquito Control Division sprayed parts of Spring Lake Heights, as well as Lake Como, Wall Township and Spring Lake due to evidence of the West Nile Virus found during earlier spraying.

A resident raised concerns at a recent council meeting about the growing amount of bulk trash and other garbage being put out on the wrong day and remaining for up to a week, causing a stink as well as an eyesore. She proposed using a door sticker to notify offenders over bulk trash.

Two ordinances were unanimously approved in Spring Lake Heights. The first ordinance approved would rescind parking restrictions that are no longer needed on roads in the southern end of town and the second ordinance approved established salary and wage ranges for borough workers for 2016.

### **Spring Lake:**

Repairs to the Spring Lake footbridge is underway as the borough began repairs to the footbridges traversing Spring Lake in Divine Park necessitated by old age.

The American Littoral Society will be monitoring the fish population at Wreck Pond, incorporating tags that will allow researchers to scan and track individual fish within the pond and surrounding tributaries. The data will be compared to data collected once the project is completed to determine the success of the project.

### **Sea Girt:**

The Recreation Commission presented plans for improvements to Baltimore Park to the mayor, council, and public. The borough anticipates a county grant of approximately \$100,000 to match funds provided from the

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recreation trust fund. The improvements include improving the ground surface material, extending the roof structure, planting shrubs or hedges along the street, improving the T-ball field, and providing seating along the soccer field.

The outfall pipe at Baltimore Beach will receive a second look as the engineer will further study the outfall pipe extension which now extends 99 feet into the ocean.

New community garden opens at Sea Girt Elementary School as the school garden club members built boxes and sowed crops on Field Day. Second graders sang "The Garden Song" at the opening of the school's new garden.

### **Avon-By-the-Sea**

Eagle Scout, Michael Hanlon, retrofitted old planters on Main Street and turned them into recycling containers. The purpose is to reduce overflow of trash.

**Brielle:** Brielle Community Garden yields organic veggies and plants. The garden teaches students how to grow their own organic veggies without the use of chemical fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides. Volunteers typically meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Everyone is welcome to come and work in the garden and pick vegetables to bring home.

In an Eagle Scout project, Nick Noe, improves school courtyard at Brielle Elementary School. Nick cleared vegetation out and laid down filter fabric that keep weeds from growing which keeps future maintenance to a minimum.

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### **Bayshore Region Report France Karras**

From the Bayshore region I would like to report that three miles of new trails with new signage will be completed this fall. The trail will be accessible from Route 36 and extended to connect with a trail system at Hartshorne Woods County Park. The trail will be dedicated by Middletown Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger on Saturday, October 1 at 12:15 pm and a bronze plaque commemorating the Campo family's donation of the land will be placed at the trail access point. The dedication will be on the south side of Route 36, behind Cottage Gate for anyone that would like to attend. I've attached the official press release.

I would also like to comment on the fish die off along the Bayshore that has been in the news lately. Estimates are now over a million for the number of fish that died and I feel that number may be low. (here's a link to the [Asbury Park Press article](#) and today's [Star Ledger article](#)) But I'd also like to note that it was not just peanut bunker and menhaden that died. In the Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina on Monday I saw many larger fish and crabs floating on the surface as well. I feel that the DEP representative's explanation that the die-off is natural and that the peanut bunker were likely chased by predators, became trapped and suffocated due to lack of oxygen seems questionable because no one in the area has been catching Bluefish or Striped Bass lately (their main predators). And the commercial fisherman in the marina that have lived and worked there their entire lives are saying that they have never seen anything like it. For your viewing pleasure, I've attached a picture my friend took from pier 4 in Atlantic Highlands on Sunday.



The unpleasant and smelly process of cleanup continues. I'll let you know if I hear any updates.

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(Bayshore Report Continuation)

For Immediate Release  
September 1, 2016

### **Campo Trail into Hartshorne Woods in Middletown to be Dedicated October 1, 2016**

MIDDLETOWN, NJ--The completed portion of a trail accessible from Route 36 in Navesink in Campo Woods will be dedicated on October 1, 2016. A bronze plaque commemorating the Campo family's donation of this land will be dedicated by Middletown Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 12:15 pm. The dedication will be on the south side of Route 36, behind Cottage Gate.

This portion of the trail has now been extended to connect with a trail system at Hartshorne Woods County Park. It included creating three miles of new trails with new signage and improvements to the parking lot at the trail access point.

The goal is to eventually connect the Campo Trail with existing trail systems including the Henry Hudson Trail, the Bayshore Trail, and to continue a connection out to Sandy Hook. The trail extension was funded by a \$24,000 state grant from the New Jersey Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Green Acres Program of DEP.

The Campo tract was donated to Middletown Township in 2005 as open space by the Campo family of Middletown. Anthony Campo was a decorated World War II Army veteran who was raised in Belford, raised his own family in New Monmouth with his wife Maria, and later, lived in Belmar.

The dedication on the plaque begins: "This is how Mother Nature works her Miracles...so wildlife can survive." Mr. Campo believed "a long walk outside could solve any problem." He wanted the land to be a testament to his belief in the "simple things: family, nature, and hard, honest work..." and he gives the invitation to generations to come to enjoy these trails and open space as part of his legacy.

Special thanks for making the trail connection possible go to the Campo family and the Environmental Commissions of Middletown Township and the Borough of Atlantic Highlands.

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