



The **Bay Head Environmental Commission** (BHEC) continued to make progress in the conservation and development of the natural resources in the Borough of Bay Head during the calendar year ending November 30, 2018. Acting as the lead coordinating agency and public voice on conservation matters throughout the community, the BHEC performed many activities to inform and educate the public on relevant environmental issues including:

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & PUBLICATIONS

- Welcomed new Commission Members Heather Robertson & Carol Tassini
- Held monthly Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM in the Borough Hall. These meetings are open to the public to discuss environmental issues pertaining to the Borough.
- Published a monthly communication or tip to the Borough Council. Each Tip highlights an important environmental issue in the community and provides tips and suggestions for improvement.
- Attended Planning Board Meetings, as required, and participated in the review of applications as needed.
- Promoted and disseminated literature at monthly meetings to raise aware awareness of upcoming events, educational seminars, and outreaches. Events included: Native Plant Sale at the Art in the Park, Kids Crabbing Contest at the Bay Head Fire Department Clam Bake, Seaweeders Garden Club events, CornellLab Global Big Day and the Great Backyard Bird Count programs to encourage birdwatchers and amateurs to take count of birds in your neighborhood, Arbor Day Foundation- NJ Tree Recovery free seedling program, Save Barnegat Bay events, Mantoloking & Point Pleasant Environmental Commission events, ANJEC events, and others.

STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Researched and advised the Borough Council on environmental issues as they pertained to proposed resolutions, public inquires, and Borough business.
- Researched proposed offshore drilling introduced in Presidential Executive Order No.13795 and introduced a resolution to Council to oppose offshore drilling within the State of NJ.
- Conducted a phone interview with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission about mosquito prevention and eradication practices within the Borough. Reported findings and suggestions to Mayor and Council liaison.
- Participated in a joint meeting of the Beautification Committee, Council liaison, and BHEC to review plantings proposed for Borough Hall and endeavored to create a long range plan for areas in need of beautification, environmental care, and future projects.
- Reviewed plastic bag ban legislations and ordnances proposed by the State of NJ, private groups and citizens and made recommendations to Council and the Governor.
- Continued to search for ways to increase the number of items that can be kept out of the landfill. Advised the Commission on private sector retailers that recycle items not or no longer accepted at the Borough Recycling Center.
- Continued to identify and raise awareness on important issues to be addressed in the future such as: identifying environmental grants that the Borough may be eligible for, building a

natural shoreline along Twilight Lake, the need for additional dredging of Scow Ditch, and the environmental impact of flooding on the Borough.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- Through donations of Native New Jersey Plants made possible by BHEC members, the BHEC held a native plant sale to educate the public about the importance of using native plants in their landscaping. Educational material was provided with each plant distributed. Eliminating single use plastic bags was also advocated for during the Art in the Park event in June 2018.
- During the annual Clam Bake the BHEC held a Kids Crabbing Contest on the Scow Ditch Dock. Over 35 kids participated and caught several dozen crabs that were released back to the Ditch. Kids were taught the life cycle of a crab, the importance of clean water and habitat, and that all of our sidewalks, driveways, and roadways drain to Twilight Lake, Scow Ditch and Barnegat Bay. Kids were also provided the NJ State fishing and crabbing regulations and encouraged to participate and support recreational crabbing and fishing.
- Reviewed the 2017 tennis ball recycling plan within the Borough with the cooperation of the Bay Head School and the Bay Head Yacht Club to keep discarded tennis balls out of landfills and found the need for this program not to exist. The plan was discontinued and the collection bins were to be repurposed to collect recyclable garbage deposited on the courts.
- Coordinated with the Watershed Association to host the Barnegat Bay Blitz within Bay Head on June 8th 2018. The Blitz started at the fire house and collected trash and debris along Scow Ditch, Twilight Estuary, and beachfront. Over 4,579 cu yards of trash were collected in all locations, Statewide on this day.
- Participated in Clean Ocean Action Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps to collect debris & garbage from Bay Head beaches. Removing debris keeps the beaches and ocean clean and reduces waste that can threaten marine life.
- Revised and updated the "Environmental Commission" page on the Borough of Bay Head website and established BHEC email address (bayheadenvironmental@gmail.com).
- Commission members attended continuing education courses provided by Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, & EXPENDITURES

During the calendar year 2018 the BHEC made expenditures of \$1052.00, of this amount, \$445.40 was raised through donations or in kind and 606.60 was funded by the Borough.

BHEC is a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), the dues for this organization are \$300.00 annually and funded by the Borough. ANJEC provides leadership, education, and support for environmental commissions in New Jersey by hosting workshops and publishing regular communications.

\$402.00 of the total expenditures was related to the Kids Crabbing Contest at the clam bake and \$306.60 was funded by the Borough.

\$350 of the total expenditures was related to the Native Plant Sale held during the Art in the Park event in June. \$350 of native plants along with printed educational material, posters, and other publication of literature were donated by BHEC members Heather Robertson and Sharon Shaning and used as material to be sold at a break even during the Art in The Park event to encourage the use of Native Plants and to further the BHEC's mission.