



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, 2019. 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

- 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.
- Held monthly Sustainable Jersey Green Team Meetings following the regular BHEC meeting.
- 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, National Night Out, 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, 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 the feasibly and cost pertaining to regular testing of water quality at Twilight Lake. Concluded that turbidity, PH, salinity can be done very easily and by local volunteers or staff. An annual water sample by a lab would provide a baseline for the future and be the most cost effective measure in the absence of any known issue.
- Under the Sustainable Jersey initiative, Green Team member Bob Hein coordinated and conducted a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment Report with stakeholders in the Borough. The assessment mapped and evaluated critical infrastructure in the Borough and how they would fare under several scenarios of sea level rise and a Category 1 Hurricane. The study led to the creation of a Coastal Vulnerability Assessment Committee that will continue to study the impacts and potential remedies that were not addressed in the Assessment Report.
- Conducted a phone interview with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission about mosquito prevention and eradication practices within the Borough.

- Reviewed plastic bag ban legislations and ordinances proposed by the State of NJ, private groups and citizens. Reviewed prior recommendations from 2018 and concluded that a ban is not right for Bay Head at the current time.
- 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 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

- The BHEC coordinated and oversaw the administration of the Sustainable Jersey certification via a Green Team, that met monthly following BHEC meetings. Bay Head was one of 83 municipalities that attained a Bronze or Silver level certification in 2019.
- Working with the Bay Head Council, co-authored the *Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy* which was adopted unanimously by the Council. The resolution affirmed Bay Head's commitment to an integrated approach to maintaining public grounds in a green manner emphasizing efficient landscape design, minimized water consumption, use of recycled materials and compost, and pest management.
- 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.
- 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 Bay Head's 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.
- Hosted a table at the National Night Out to provide environmental education and interact with the community to make the public aware of the BHEC's role.
- Hosted Ben Worst of Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ at the March BHEC meeting to learn how Bay Head can contribute to the recovery of the Osprey in NJ. Researched the installation of an Osprey platform at Twilight Lake with hopes of a 2020 install.
- Applied for but did not receive ANJEC Open Space Grant, the grant application presented by BHEC proposed to install an Osprey Nest on the westside of Twilight Lake.
- Participated in Clean Ocean Action 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 maintained the 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 \$1072.65 of this amount, \$45.00 was raised through donations or in kind gifts and 1027.65 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 are funded by the Borough. ANJEC provides leadership, education, and support for environmental commissions in New Jersey by hosting workshops and publishing regular communications.

\$348.40 of the total expenditures was related to the Kids Crabbing Contest at the clam bake and \$303.40 was funded by the Borough.

\$424.25 of the total expenditures was related to the Native Plant Sale held during the Art in the Park event in June.

For the 2020 calendar year the BHEC proposes to spend similar amounts on the Native Plant Sale, National Night Out, Kids Crabbing Contest and annual operations. Additional amounts of: \$1,000 to test, evaluate, and archive the water quality of Twilight Lake, \$950 for the installation of an Osprey Platform at Twilight Lake, and \$900 to study and field test erosion control around Twilight Lake using coconut husk coir logs and living shoreline methods to stem erosion observed at the north and west of the lake will be requested to be included in the BHEC's 2020 budget.

| Bay Head Environmental Commission | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| DRAFT BUDGET OF OPERATIONS 2019-2020 | | | | | |
| All in dollars | | | 2019 | 2019 | 2020 Budget |
| Description | | | Yearly Budget | Actuals | |
| Source of Funds | | | | | |
| Grant- | | | | | |
| Donations from members & public | | | | \$ 45.00 | |
| Borough of Bay Head/ Reimbursements | | | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,027.65 | |
| Fundraising | | | | | |
| Total Funds Available to the BHEC | | | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,072.65 | |
| Continuing Education | | | | | |
| ANJEC Membership | | | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| ANJEC Workshop - | | | | \$ - | |
| Total Cont. Education Costs | | | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| BHEC Operations | | | | | |
| Postage | | | | | |
| Printing & Reprographics | | | \$ 200.00 | | \$ 200.00 |
| Mailings | | | | | |
| Webpage and Hosting fee and design update | | | | | |
| Total Cost for BHEC Operations | | | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ 200.00 |
| BHEC Events | | | | | |
| Event - Green Fair - Native Plants | | | \$ 400.00 | \$ 424.25 | \$ 450.00 |
| Event - Pill Drop | | | NA | \$ - | \$ - |
| Event - Beach Sweep | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Event - Mantoloking EC Joint Event | | | \$ 200.00 | \$ - | \$ 200.00 |
| Event - Crab Contest | | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 348.40 | \$ 450.00 |
| Recognition - Awards | | | | \$ - | \$ 150.00 |
| Twilight Lake Water Testing | | | NA | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Osprey Platform - Twilight Lake | | | NA | \$ - | \$ 950.00 |
| Twilight Lake Erosion Study - Coir Logs | | | NA | \$ - | \$ 900.00 |
| Total Cost for BHEC Events | | | \$ 1,100.00 | \$ 772.65 | \$ 4,100.00 |
| Total Costs | | | \$ 1,600.00 | \$ 1,072.65 | \$ 4,600.00 |
| <i>Amount to be Funded</i> | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (4,600.00) |