



2020 was a challenging but productive year for the **Bay Head Environmental Commission** (BHEC). Due to COVID-19 a good portion of the year was put on hold until a format for safe public meetings, that met municipal standards, could be arranged. Despite the lack of a public forum members of the Commission should be commended for the work they continued to do in the absence of in-person meetings. Of special note is the publishing of the Natural Resource Inventory authored by volunteer Courtney Jacobs and overseen by Commission Member Tom Charlton.

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**

- Early in 2020 the BHEC held monthly Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM in the Borough Hall. These meetings are traditionally open to the public to discuss environmental issues pertaining to the Borough. However due to COVID-19 these meetings were suspended for a period of time and then moved online to a Zoom Meeting.
- In 2020 the BHEC meetings were met with some challenges due to COVID-19. BHEC meetings were cancelled from March until June. From our June meeting on have been hosted virtually via ZOOM Platform. While a virtual meeting is not ideal it has allowed the BHEC to move forward with updates and new business. We thank Tom Charlton for hosting and moderating the virtual meetings. The link to all BHEC virtual meetings will continue to be posted on the Borough of Bay Head's website. All are welcome to "attend".
- Held periodic Sustainable Jersey Green Team Meetings following the regular BHEC meetings. We hope to resume a more regular schedule and welcome virtual volunteers.
- 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 this year were limited but included: NJ Transit Public Meeting, Community Flood Rating at the Art in the Park, 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 impact of the proposed NJ Transit Substation and expanded operations in the Bay Head Yard and raised questions via a letter to NJ Transit and testified during the public hearing at Sacred Heart Church.
- Coordinated with Sophia Bradach of Stockton University who is studying the impacts of tourism on water quality in the waters at the NJ Shore. Water samples were/will be taken in 2020/2021 in the Ocean, Twilight Lake, and the Barnegat Bay.
- Reviewed the proposed Atlantic Shores offshore wind farm plans submitted to the town of Sea Girt and requested the Borough of Bay Head be provided with future notice of offshore plans.
- Reviewed the proposed Dune Ordinance 2020.
- 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. This year the Green Team met very infrequently, we hope to return to a more normal schedule post COVID and continue to use zoom meetings. Bay Head is still certified as a Bronze Level community in 2020.
- Coordinated with Conserve Wildlife NJ and identified endangered beach plants in the South end of Bay Head. Plants were marked to avoid damage.
- Coordinated with Conserve Wildlife NJ and Rutgers University to place trail camera on the beach dunes to study the dune predator community. Special thanks to Bob Hein for hosting a camera on his property.
- The BHEC did not hold a native plant sale to educate the public about the importance of using native plants in their landscaping, this year due to the fact that the Art in the Park event was held in late summer(COVID) when there would be little interest in planting.
- Unfortunately, this year the annual Clam Bake was not able to be held and therefore there was no BHEC Kids Crabbing Contest on the Scow Ditch Docks.
- Revised and updated the "Environmental Commission" page on the Borough of Bay Head website and maintained the BHEC email address ([bayheadenvironmental@gmail.com](mailto:bayheadenvironmental@gmail.com)).

### **RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, & EXPENDITURES**

During the calendar year 2020 due to COVID and the majority of in person events being canceled expenditures did not occur and projects were postponed. Expenditures of \$300.00 were made and 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.

For the 2021 calendar year the BHEC proposes to spend similar amounts as seen in 2019 and as previously budgeted for in 2020. Spending we hope returns to normal on the Native Plant Sale, National Night Out, Kids Crabbing Contest and annual operations. Amounts of: \$950 for the installation of an Osprey Platform at Twilight Lake that never occurred in 2020, 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 2021 budget.

<b>Bay Head Environmental Commission</b>						
<b>BUDGET OF OPERATIONS 2019-2021</b>						
All in dollars			2019	2020 Budget	2020	2021 Budget
Description			Actual		Actual	
Source of Funds						
Grant-						
Donations from members & public			\$ 45.00			
Borough of Bay Head/ Reimbursements			\$ 1,027.65		\$ 300.00	
Fundraising						
<b>Total Funds Available to the BHEC</b>			<b>\$ 1,072.65</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Continuing Education						
ANJEC Membership			\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
ANJEC Workshop -			\$ -			
<b>Total Cont. Education Costs</b>			<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
<b>BHEC Operations</b>						
Postage						
Printing & Reprographics				\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Mailings						
Technology - Zoom, Dropbox, similar						\$ 320.00
<b>Total Cost for BHEC Operations</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 520.00</b>
<b>BHEC Events</b>						
Event - Green Fair - Native Plants			\$ 424.25	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Event - Pill Drop			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Event - Beach Sweep			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Event - Mantoloking EC Joint Event			\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Event - Crab Contest			\$ 348.40	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Recognition - Awards			\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Twilight Lake Water Testing			\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Osprey Platform - Twilight Lake			\$ -	\$ 950.00	\$ -	\$ 950.00
Twilight Lake Erosion Study - Coir Logs			\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00
<b>Total Cost for BHEC Events</b>			<b>\$ 772.65</b>	<b>\$ 4,100.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,100.00</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>\$ 1,072.65</b>	<b>\$ 4,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,920.00</b>
<i>Amount to be Funded</i>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (4,600.00)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (3,920.00)</b>