



2021 was another challenging but productive year for the **Bay Head Environmental Commission** (BHEC). Due to COVID-19 monthly meetings continued to be held virtually until July, at which time meetings resumed in-person and also virtually. Meetings will continue to be broadcasted virtually for those who cannot make in person meetings.

Those who have attended previous BHEC meetings know that flooding is a frequent topic, this year in February 2021 the BHEC formed a formal Flood Committee and flooding is now a standing agenda topic of the BHEC. In November the BHEC held a special meeting in a "town-hall" format, where the state of the borough related to flooding was presented by Rick McGoey of the BH Planning Board and BHEC member. The Borough & the BHEC have dedicated a great deal of resources to this issue and true cooperation with all members of the Borough, its administration, professionals, and key stake holders in the community is under way. Flooding will remain on the agenda and be a prominent topic of discussion for the BHEC in 2022.

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 2021 the BHEC held online monthly Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM. These meetings are traditionally open to the public to discuss environmental issues pertaining to the Borough. Due to COVID-19 these meetings were online, but in July in-person meetings resumed on the second floor of Borough Hall, with the meetings still broadcast online.
- Held periodic Sustainable Jersey Green Team Meetings following the regular BHEC meetings. Furtherance of the Sustainable Jersey rating and participation was discontinued due to a lack of interest and volunteers for the program. It could be restarted if a coordinator were to volunteer for this role.
- 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 information was provided at Earth Day and at the Art in the Park, Cornell Lab 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 inquiries, and Borough business.
- Published a finalized Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and provide the final versions to the planning board for its use and adaptation.
- Created a Flooding Committee under the BHEC to research any and all flood relate issues. The first half of the year was focused on reviewing the stormwater infrastructure and making sure installed check valves were functioning properly.
- Monitored and documented all flooding events within the Borough and created a log and written report for each incident. For each incident an explanation of cause was sought, i.e moon, tide, wind, storm. Imperial data was cataloged along with local observations. This documentation has established a water height in Barnegat needed to cause localized flooding in Bay Head and can lead to more accurate predictions of flooding.
- Reviewed and commented on the Twilight Lake management plan being undertaken by Princeton Hydro. Recommended testing locations on the lake and Scow Ditch for water quality testing.
- 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 disseminated information regarding the Community Rating System (CRS) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program of FEMA at the Earth Day Celebrations. This information can better help homeowners prepare for and how best to recover from a flood.
- The BHEC held a native plant sale to educate the public about the importance of using native plants in their landscaping, this was held outside of the Art in the Park event. We recommend that next year a table be reserved for the Borough inside the event for Borough use, this sale being one of them. Other uses would include flood mitigation, recycling info/public works, Police/Fire outreach.
- The BHEC Kids Crabbing Contest on the Scow Ditch Docks was held during the annual Clam Bake, over 30 participants joined despite the rainy forecast. The weather held for the event and the kids learned about the Twilight Lake ecosystem.
- Held a town hall style meeting with a video presentation on flooding in Bay Head. The meeting was viewed by over 200 local participants and covered by the local press and Associated Press. The presentation is available on the Borough web site. The topic was particularly timely as much of the entire town was flooded over the Halloween weekend. In terms of disruption to residents not damage, this flooding was the worst since Sandy and flooding caused the closure of streets for many days and the cancellation of the Halloween parade.
- Hosted Princeton Hydro for a discussion of the ongoing Twilight Lake study and management plan. The forum was used to update the public on the plan and take input from the public and key stakeholders in the community as required under the grant which funds this study.
- Revised and updated the "Environmental Commission" page on the Borough of Bay Head website and maintained the BHEC email address (bayheadenvironmental@gmail.com).

RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, & EXPENDITURES

With a "return to normal" the Native Plant sale was held in June, plants purchased were sold at cost so there was no profit or loss to the Borough. The Crabbing Contest was also held during the Clam Back after being cancelled in 2020. Expenditures of \$256.00 were made and funded by private donations this year.

BHEC is a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), the dues for this organization are \$350.00 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 2022 calendar year the BHEC proposes to spend similar amounts as seen in 2019 and as previously budgeted for in 2020/2021 and these levels are already factored into the Borough budget. Post pandemic COVID, spending has returned to normal for the Native Plant Sale, National Night Out, Kids Crabbing Contest and much of the annual operations. Also of note is that the Borough received a major grant to fund the Twilight Lake Management Plan and this will shift costs that the BHEC anticipated undertaking into this study.

Bay Head Environmental Commission BUDGET OF OPERATIONS 2021-2022

All in dollars			2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Description						
Source of Funds						
Grant-						
Donations from members & public				\$ 406.00		
Borough of Bay Head/ Reimbursements				\$ 400.06		
Fundraising				\$ 450.00		
Total Funds Available to the BHEC			\$ -	\$ 1,256.06	\$ -	\$ -
Continuing Education						
ANJEC Membership			\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	
ANJEC Workshop -				\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Total Cont. Education Costs			\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
BHEC Operations						
Postage					\$ 100.00	
Printing & Reprographics			\$ 200.00	\$ 50.06	\$ 100.00	
Mailings					\$ 100.00	
Technology - Zoom, Dropbox, similar			\$ 320.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	
Total Cost for BHEC Operations			\$ 520.00	\$ 200.06	\$ 500.00	\$ -
BHEC Events						
Event - Green Fair - Native Plants			\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ -	
Event - Pill Drop			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Event - Beach Sweep			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Event - Mantoloking EC Joint Event			\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Event - Crab Contest			\$ 300.00	\$ 256.00	\$ 300.00	
Recognition - Awards			\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Twilight Lake Water Testing			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Osprey Platform - Twilight Lake			\$ 950.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Twilight Lake Erosion Study - Coir Logs			\$ 900.00			
Flooding Insurtuments & Tools			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Total Cost for BHEC Events			\$ 2,950.00	\$ 706.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -
Total Costs			\$ 3,770.00	\$ 1,256.06	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Amount to be Funded			\$ (3,770.00)	\$ -	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ -