



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, 2017. 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.
- 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.
- Promoted and disseminated literature at monthly meetings to raise aware awareness of upcoming events, educational seminars, and outreaches. Events included: 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, Rutgers Agricultural and Cooperative Extension Programs, Save Barnegat Bay events, NJ Mayors Climate Summit, Jersey Friendly Yards, 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.
- Conducted a phone interview with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission about mosquito prevention and eradication practices within the Borough. Reported findings and suggestions to Public Works and Council.
- Participated in the review of the Bay Head Master Plan to represent environmental concerns pertaining to our community including additional emphasis on resilience planning and green infrastructure elements.
- Conducted an Environmental Inventory of the Borough and led two separate public bicycle tours over the summer to highlight the Commission's work on this project. The tours focused on the Borough's opens spaces, recreational areas, and natural resources. Evaluated the NJ American Water Company's Annual Water Quality Report for Bay Head's water supply and reported the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Borough Council.
- Conducted an inspection of the new Borough Hall to look for ways to improve energy efficiency and save energy and money.
- Continued to search for ways to increase the number of items that can be kept out of the landfill. Advised the Commission now that the County no longer accepts electronics via the Borough Recycling Center, retailers such as Best Buy can be an alternative for recycling electronics.

- 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

- Implemented a 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 to be repurposed upon the end of their useful life.
- Promoted the safe disposal of prescription medicines through monthly tips, internet social media postings, and the Pill-Drop Days. Prescription pills were collected at the Bay Head Police Department for proper disposal.
- Coordinated with the Musconetcong Watershed Association to host the Bio-Blitz within Bay Head on June 7th 2017. The Blitz started at the fire house and collected trash and debris along Scow Ditch, Twilight Estuary, and beachfront.
- 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.
- Helped plan, organize, and conduct Public outreach meeting regarding the possible future use of the right-of-way along the east side of Clayton Avenue including preparing and tabulating results of a public survey to gauge public sentiment regarding alternative uses of the property.
- Revised and updated the “Environmental Commission” page on the Borough of Bay Head website and established BHEC email address (bayheadenvironmental@gmail.com).

RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, & EXPENDITURES

During the calendar year 2017 the BHEC made expenditures of \$506.14. The BHEC is a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, the dues for this organization is \$300.00 annually and provides leadership, education, and support for environmental commissions in New Jersey by hosting workshops and publishing regular communications. The remaining \$206.14 was related to the tennis ball recycling program and consisted of four metal 12”x18” signs, two recycling bins with lids, and chains and miscellaneous hardware to secure the signs and bins.

PREVIOUSLY NOTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Achieved *Bronze Level Certification* for Sustainable Jersey in 2016. Sustainable Jersey is a non-profit that supports community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity.
- Spearheaded the passing of a “No Smoking” on public grounds ordinance in Bay Head.
- Provided information to the public in the town-wide spring mailing regarding the need to keep catch-basins clean and to remove mulch from public streets. Advised on proper mulching techniques and the role of native plant species in our community.
- Participated in several public outreach workshops including sessions on low-water use landscaping and dune restoration efforts.
- Collaborated with the Mantoloking Environmental Commission to promote healthy soil with the use of green fertilizer, native New Jersey plants, and non-invasive plantings when landscaping.