

Save Coastal Wildlife
Board Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, August 22, 2019
7:00pm – 8:30pm
Location: 1036 Prospect Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716
(Home of Elise Farnsworth – Board member)

Attendance:

Joe Reynolds – President
Caitlin Boyle - Vice President
Melanie Caponigro – Treasurer
Sue Baklarz
Elise Farnsworth
Joseph Sheridan

Special Guest: John A. Tiedemann, Assistant Dean, School of Science, Director of Marine and Environmental Biology & Policy Program, Monmouth University

1. Partnership with Monmouth University – John Tiedemann would like Monmouth University, School of Science, and Save Coastal Wildlife nonprofit, to form a partnership in order to provide school credit (non-paid) internships to Monmouth University undergraduate students of science. Several students per semester will assist members of Save Coastal Wildlife to carry out various activities including existing projects: Seine the Bay Day, Horseshoe Crab Monitoring, Winter Seal Survey, as well as new projects: Microplastic Sampling, Coastal Picture Post Monitoring, and Ribbed Mussel Restoration. Joe Reynolds will be the contact person for Monmouth University and fill out the appropriate paperwork.
2. May 2, 2019 Minutes –The board approved the minutes without changes to the previous meeting.
3. Bank Account Update – There is \$280.16 in the BCB account. There is \$217.50 in the PayPal account. Total = \$497.66.
- 4 Donations – Since the previous board meeting, we received three donations via Paypal. One donation in cash from a board member (Elise Farnsworth), and we sold two t-shirts. On August 21, we received a check in the mail in the amount of \$30.00 from the Network For Good organization. Two people made anonymous donations to this organization's website via Facebook in care of Save Coastal Wildlife.
5. Fundraiser – The board agreed to conduct a public fundraiser in late 2019 or early 2020. Details still need to be worked on.

6. Donation Website – Currently, we are taking donations via Paypal on the Save Coastal Wildlife website. But Joe Reynolds will expand the opportunities for people to donate including donating via Squarespace and via the Just Giving website.

7. IRS 990N Form – Paperwork was submitted to the IRS and approved in April 2019.

8. NJ Dept of Treasury Paperwork – No new information at this time.

9. Public Outreach: Website/ Festival & Special Events – Some of the special events we would like to participate in 2020 include:

- Sea, Hear, Now Festival in Asbury Park in September
- Beach Plum Festival at Island Beach State Park in September
- Oceanfest in Long Branch on July 4th
- Great Fish Count in Keyport during early June
- National Vaquata Day in Asbury Park during early July

We have also received an email from Jennifer Cox, Supervisory Park Ranger at Gateway National Recreation Area to participate in Adventure Day at Sandy Hook on Sunday, October 6, 2019. If we agree to participate, we would need to come up with some hands-on activities for children (around 4th grade in age). Seining is one possibility.

10. Public Clean –up Dates – There are no public clean up dates scheduled as of now in fall 2019. We would like to Partner with the Deal Lake Watershed Council to conduct a cleanup around Deal Lake in autumn 2019.

11 Seine the Bay Day – The next Seine the Bay Day event is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th. Joe Reynolds suggested that in 2020 he would like to modify Seine the Bay Day. He would like to partner with local environmental commissions within the Bayshore Region and down the Jersey Shore to conduct shorter versions of the activity throughout the spring and summer. Instead of travelling to several places in one day, it would take place at various locations on various days for an hour or two during a weekend or weekday evening. For example, there would be one event at Keyport on a certain day, and then another event in Atlantic Highlands on another day, and another event in Cliffwood Beach on another day, etc... Similar to a travelling roadshow with a seine net and buckets.

12. Osprey Platform – There is an existing osprey platform in Union Beach that needs to be repaired. Ron Dente has told Joe Reynolds via phone that he will get a team together to work to repair the platform sometime in the fall or winter.

13. Horseshoe Crab Project – Joe Reynolds will send an email to Keith Dunton at Monmouth University to get data from our acoustic monitoring sensors.

12. Blog & Podcast – No new information at this time.

13. Mussel restoration – Joe Reynolds gave a talk about ways to conduct mussel restoration. It would include placing a pole or rope in the water near an active ribbed mussel bed. In late spring, mussels naturally spawn as water temperatures rise. The pole or line afloat by buoys would catch mussel larva. By fall, the mussels will have grown to about half the length of a person's thumb and are ready to be moved to a restoration site and collected for stocking or put in long mesh tubes to grow and feed.

Joe Reynolds would like to start a small trial ribbed mussel restoration project in spring 2020, perhaps in Union Beach/Keyport area.

14. Other items by board members – Joe Sheridan spoke about Keyport's Living Shoreline project as one model for communities in the State of New Jersey and the United States to follow. On Thursday, August 22, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. updated the public in the Borough of Keyport on legislation that will help communities combat the effects of climate change, including sea level rise and biodiversity loss. In June, Pallone introduced the Living Shorelines Act, which would create a federal grant program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist states, localities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in constructing living shorelines. The bill received a legislative hearing in the Natural Resources Committee in July.

Living shoreline projects use natural materials and systems, including dunes, wetlands, and oyster reefs, to support the natural flood resilience of healthy shoreline ecosystems. Natural infrastructure is cost-effective and creates jobs. It is adaptable to changing environmental conditions and can sequester carbon emissions. It also enhances ecosystem functions which can improve water quality, wildlife habitat protection, and local recreation.