

**2013 YEAR END REPORT
TO BERKELEY TOWNSHIP
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AS PER CHAPTER 2 – 52.7 (c)**

**BY THE BERKELEY TOWNSHIP
WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Jan. 6, 2014

TO: The Honorable Carmen F. Amato, Jr., Mayor
Council President James J. Byrnes
Council Vice President Judy Noonan
Councilman John Bacchione
Councilman L. Thomas Grosse, Jr.
Councilman Robert G. Ray
Councilman Angelo Guadagno
Councilwoman Sophia Gingrich

FROM: William E. McGrath, Chairman
Berkeley Township Waterways Advisory Commission

SUBJECT: Year End Report

Mayor and Council:

On behalf of the Waterways Advisory Commission members, let me take this opportunity to thank you for our appointments that allowed us to serve the residents of Berkeley Township in regards to our most precious natural asset, our waterways.

In accordance with Chapter 2 – 52.7 (c) we respectfully submit this report on our Commission's activities this past year. As you know, because of Superstorm Sandy, this past year has been one of many challenges for everyone, including our Commission. There is no doubt that Berkeley Township's entire new governing body was baptized by fire with Superstorm Sandy. As our maritime communities suffered severe damage, our Commission took its cue from the Mayor and Council to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. Our Commission, along with the Mayor and Council had many accomplishments this year but, much more needs to be done.

In the nine months of our Commission's existence, we have had many initiatives. Some, not all, had success. For me personally, the one initiative that I am most proud of, is that our Commission played a part in the acquisition of Lots 6 and 7, Block 1221.06 (97 Amherst Road). It was a strategic grand slam that now allows Berkeley Township to control both sides of Amherst Inlet. For that, we thank Mayor Amato and the Council.

As we re-organize for 2014, we will re-dedicate ourselves to the formidable challenges that lie ahead. Our Commission stands ready to assist the governing body any way we can.

Respectfully,

William E. McGrath, Chairman
Berkeley Township Waterways Commission

APRIL:

1. Formation of the Berkeley Township Waterways Advisory Commission.
2. Organized positions of Chairman, Secretary and developed a monthly meeting schedule.
3. Polled each member to address waterway concerns and issues to improve the Township's waterways.
4. Developed a plan of action to fulfil or our duties.

MAY:

1. Monitored waterway debris removal by state contractors.
2. Cataloging debris in salt marsh areas and waterways, assigning latitude/longitude location coordinates and forwarding them to state contractors for removal.
3. Formulating a township wide comprehensive dredging priority plan. Identifying the most serious shoaling areas (e.g. 265 Butler Blvd., Maple Creek, Glen Cove local channels, Bowsprit lagoon entrance, Amherst Inlet).
4. Addressed the ridiculous FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevations and the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012. Developed a plan of action to help the Mayor have FEMA rescind their ABFE's.
5. Advised the Mayor and Council on DFIRM appeal strategy.
6. Advised the homeowners in the "Good Luck Point" area with repetitive flood loses to take advantage of the State's Blue Acres Program and its resultant positive effect on Berkeley Township's FEMA NFIP Community Rating System.
7. Investigated the iBOATNJ grant program for boating related capital improvement projects (boat ramps, boating facilities, etc.)

JUNE:

1. Continued to monitor waterway debris removal and call in latitude/longitude locations of debris to state contractors located at Becker's Marina.
2. Identified additional shoaling areas in the Glen Cove area and identified which of those areas were mapped for submerged aquatic vegetation by the NJDEP.
3. Monitored the status of NJDEP dredging of areas shoaled in from Superstorm Sandy.
4. Formed a committee to do a site search study to build a new public boat ramp with grant funding.
5. Passed Resolution 2013-001 BTWAC to advise Mayor and Council to purchase Lots 6 and 7, Block 1221.06 so Berkeley Township would control both sides of Amherst Inlet.
6. Monitored Ocean County Board of Health's weekly water quality testing of bathing beaches. Investigated ways to get Ocean County Board of Health to test more of Berkeley's beaches.
7. Attended meeting in the Mayor's office with representatives of DCA/EDA to explain CDBG programs.
8. Investigated flooding at the end of Teakwood Drive. Determined 8" drain pipe too small & clogged. Recommended normal catch basin with larger pipe.
9. Investigated complaints from South Seaside Park residents regarding the State's property on the bay at the end of 24th Ave. (the old Wheelhouse Marina property).

JULY:

1. Evaluated FEMA "Preliminary Work Maps" issued by FEMA on June 17, 2013.
2. Advised the Mayor and Council to rescind the previously adopted "Advisory Base Flood Elevations" issued by FEMA in December of 2012 and adopt the "Preliminary Work Maps" for building permit purposes.
3. Sent letters supporting the Moorage Lagoon pollution control project by the Ocean County Engineering Dept. to the N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund to release \$ 500,000 in grant funds for the project.
4. Continued to monitor waterway debris removal by state contractors.
5. Continued to monitor fecal coliform beach closures by Ocean County Board of Health.
6. Monitored the Bayview Avenue culvert replacement project by Ocean County.
7. Identified and assisted in submerged concrete and debris removal at Mill Creek Road Public Boat Ramp.

AUGUST:

1. Developed a plan of action to help combat the proliferation of jellyfish in Barnegat Bay and Berkeley's lagoon waterways by:
 - a. Recommending changes to the Berkeley Twp. Municipal Land Use Ordinance to regulate nitrogen export and mitigation by requiring storm water permits for individual building permits.
 - b. Identify illegal discharges into the municipal storm drainage system.
 - c. Cataloging existing storm drains in need of retro-fitting.
 - d. Public education by offering Waterway Commission speakers to do presentations to local organizations.
2. Continued to monitor fecal coliform beach closures by Ocean County Board of Health.
3. Requesting and monitoring 128 cubic yards of beach sand placed on Amherst Beach by Dept. of Parks and Recreation.
4. Continued site search for new public boat ramp and grant funding for same.
5. Continued to monitor Superstorm Sandy sediment removal status for:
 - a. Glen Cove local channel area.
 - b. Maple Creek.
 - c. Bowsprit Dr. local channel area.
 - d. 265 Butler Blvd.
 - e. Amherst Inlet.
6. Employed the services of Cindy Randazzo, NJDEP Director of Local Government Assistance to lobby NJDEP Office of Dredging and Sediment Technology to have sediment from Superstorm Sandy removed from Berkeley Township's waterways via the State's dredging contractors.

SEPTEMBER:

1. Conducted a hydrographic survey for the entire length of Maple Creek to determine the extent of sediment impeding navigation.
2. Received a petition from 73 homeowners in the Maple Creek area complaining about the sediment impeding navigation in that area.
3. Continued to monitor the Superstorm Sandy sediment removal status thru Cindy Randazzo, NJDEP Director of Local Government Assistance.
4. Developing a plan of action to solve the problem of children jumping and diving off of the Amherst Inlet jetty into the rocks.
5. Monitoring the fecal coliform beach closures and advisories for the past month by the Ocean County Board of Health.
6. Continued to monitor the purchase of Lots 6 and 7, Block 1221.06 (97 Amherst Drive) and making sure the tidelands license for the existing dock was being transferred to the Township along with the purchase of the land.
7. Continued to monitor the Barnegat Bay debris removal by calling in additional latitude/longitude locations to assist the State's contractors.
8. Investigated a resident's complaint that an oceanfront establishment was impeding beach access at 24th Ave. South Seaside Park. Researched Township archives to retrieve 25 year old agreement between Berkeley Twp. and the ocean front establishment, prepared explanatory exhibits and convened a meeting with Township officials to explain and define the problem.

OCTOBER:

1. Continued to lobby NJDEP for sediment removal (dredging) for seven Berkeley Township sites defined by the Waterways Advisory Commission.
2. Investigated the methodology used to determine which sites the NJDEP would dredge to remove Superstorm Sandy sediment.
3. Studying the waterway depth comparisons between pre-storm lidar taken 10/26/2012 and post storm lidar taken 11/01/2012.
4. Added two additional members to the public boat ramp site search committee and widened the scope of the committee to a future maritime park with grant funding.
5. Agreed to monitor the deplorable condition of the Ocean County Utilities Authority pumping station at the end of Allen Road.
6. Continued to monitor the waterways debris removal by the State's contractors.
7. Investigated the status of dredged spoils to be placed on Berkeley Island Park from phase 2 of NJDEP removal of Superstorm Sandy sediment deposits from the east side of the bay.
8. Convened a meeting at Berkeley Island Park with Township and County officials to tour the damage from Superstorm Sandy and lobbied to have repairs expedited so residents can have use of the park next summer.
9. Monitored South Seaside Park bayside beach stabilization project.
10. Audited FEMA's "Preliminary Work Maps" to determine how many buildings were still in the V Zones and investigated V Zone appeal procedures.

11. Prepared a 90 minute power point presentation by the Chairman and Secretary to outline the Commission's activities and responsibilities and presented it to the Berkeley Shores Homeowners and Civic Association at their general meeting.

NOVEMBER:

1. Cataloging waterfront infrastructure damage to assist the Township Planner prepare the "Strategic Community Planning Report" paid for with a \$ 26,000 grant from N.J. Department of Community Affairs.
2. Investigated federal grants for marine debris removal after the State's deadline.
3. Cataloging the latitude/longitude locations of remaining marine debris in the Township's Good Luck Point area and determining if each location is in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge or the Ocean County Public Lands Trust for grant source purposes.
4. Investigating Green Acres and Blue Acres funding rules for blighted waterfront land acquisition for a Township Maritime Park.
5. Formulated an e-mail communications protocol among Commission members.
6. Monitored the status of the Army Corps of Engineers oceanfront beach replenishment project and investigated Midway Beach Condominium Association's master deed to find an "Easement of Necessity" to Berkeley Township that may be used for dune purposes.
7. Continued to monitor the Moorage lagoon pollution control project with grant funds from the N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund.
8. Investigated the erosion problem at the end of Butler Boulevard and discussed with Township Engineer.

DECEMBER: (meeting canceled due to winter storm warning)

1. Investigated the disrepair of the "Bayview Dock Owners Association's 15 slip, 450 ft. long, pier in the lagoon off of Bowsprit Drive, their bylaws and deed restrictions.
2. Determining if the penalty for dumping debris into Berkeley's lagoons and waterways (Ordinance 10-09-OAB) should be increased.
3. Investigating and monitoring the use of concrete prisms as wave attenuators to combat beach erosion being installed in the Borough of Ocean Gate.
4. Determining if a full or part time lifeguard at Amherst Beach would solve the problem of children jumping and diving off the Amherst Inlet jetty into the rocks and also prompt the Ocean County Board of Health to test the water there on a weekly basis during the summer.
5. Continued to monitor the status of the Army Corps of Engineer's ocean front beach replenishment project and defining Island Beach State Park's fore dunes that were compromised during Superstorm Sandy.
6. Assisted the Township Engineer by assembling copies of successful V Zone appeals in other communities in preparation for possible appeal of the V Zone designation at the end of Sloop Creek Road.

*** END OF REPORT ***

Respectfully submitted by:

THE BERKELEY TOWNSHIP WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMISSION

William E. McGrath, Chairman / Fred Bekirian, Secretary