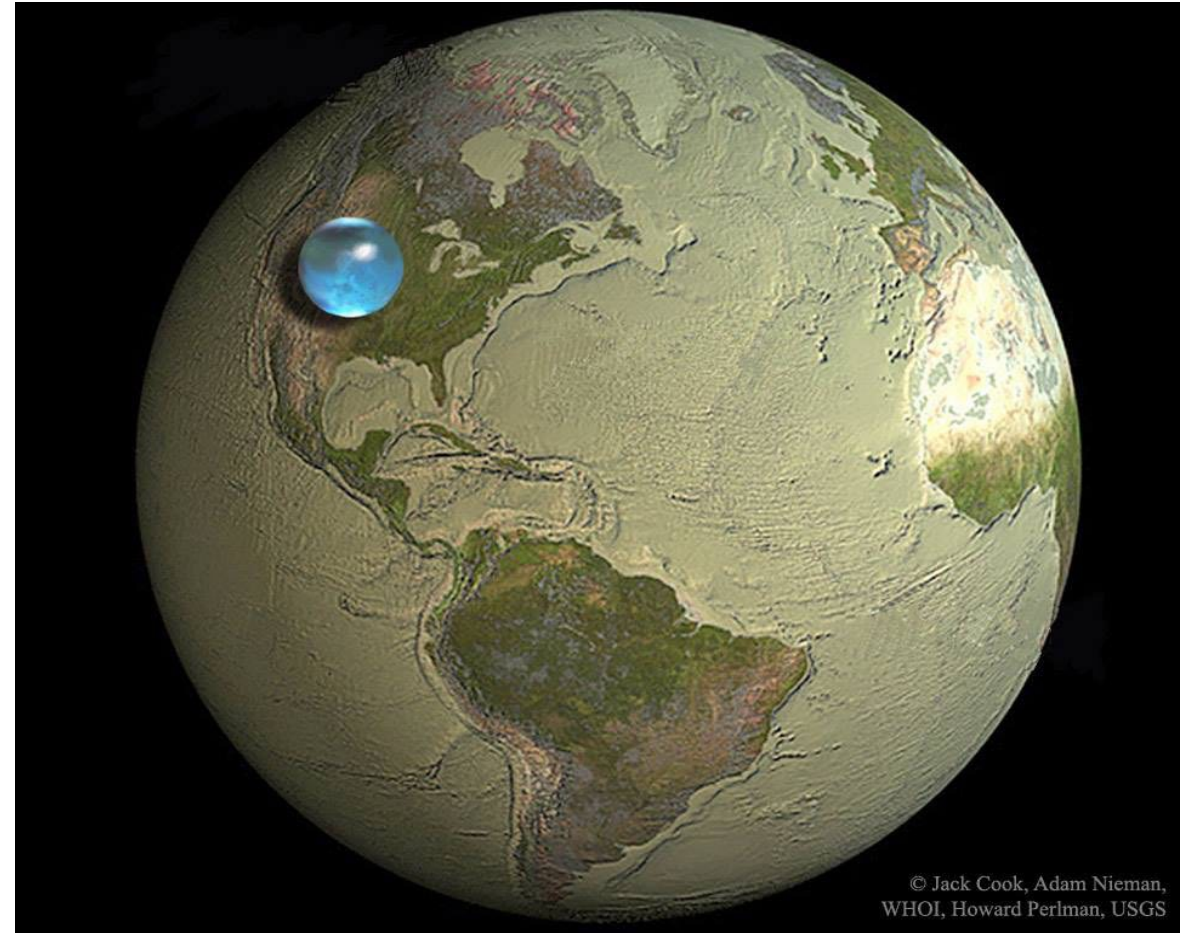


Managing and Maintaining a Successful Environmental Commission



Astronomer Carl Sagan is famous for many things including his book, "A Pale Blue Dot" – but context is everything and while we all know the Earth to be blue and covered in water – this graphic represents all the water on Earth compared to the Earth itself and it isn't really as much as we would have imagined...



But.... Context is EVERYTHING... and these pictures from my front porch and around my community from October 30th, 2012 show the shocking impact of the Super Storm Sandy storm surge on our community.





The Brick, Point Pleasant, Mantoloking, Bay Head and Toms River Communities where my wife and I had lived for barely 18 months, were destroyed....





Once the initial shock of what had happened began to wane, the trash that the storm had left behind shocked me for a second time – it was a foot deep everywhere the flooding had reached... including my back yard...





It was a scary
time for
weeks...





But life had to go on... and mother nature wasn't going to wait...

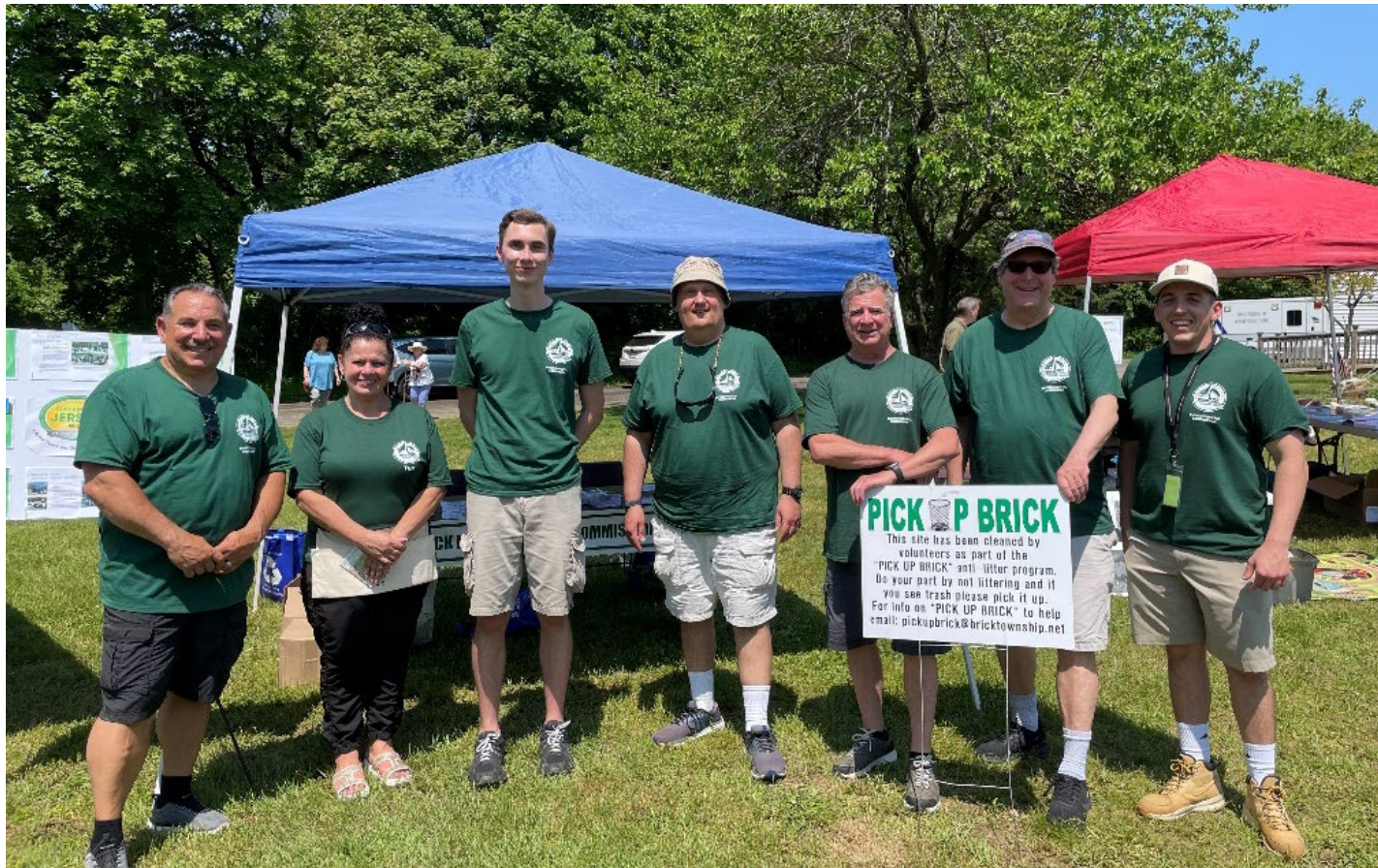


So now it was time to get to work, and the newly elected Mayor of Brick John Ducey held an Ask the Mayor Event shortly after being sworn in early 2013, barely 8 weeks after Sandy...



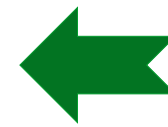
...little did I know he would be one of the biggest supporters of preservation of the Environment when I went to complain to him about all the trash that was still plaguing our community nearly three months after the storm hit...

It was during this meeting that he told me the Township was going to revive the mostly dormant Commissions in town including the Shade Tree and Environmental Commission and he'd be happy to nominate me to a seat if I was interested!



INDEED I was! And with that...
The Brick Environmental
Commission was re-born!

Luckily, the Secretary of the newly revived ENV COMM was a township Employee who was also a Tree Hugger, so we were in good hands as we learned to Duties and Responsibilities associated with our rolls as Appointees to the Township of Brick Environmental Commission



Keith Rella and me receiving our Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey in 2022



So what are the secrets of a successful Environmental Commission?

First and foremost, be present.

In addition to reviewing and advising the Planning Board on the suitability of the various building plans they review for the Environmental and sustainable impact on the site during our monthly meetings, work with the community on initiatives that are important to them.

Brick already had an existing relationship with Clean Ocean Action, working with school, business and other community groups collaborating with them on the twice a year "Beach Sweeps" at Bricks two ocean beaches



Beach Sweeps take place in the spring in April and in the fall in October...



And we also launched our annual Green Fair in 2014 which celebrated its 10th anniversary this past Spring!



So now you may have seen and been wondering about the “Pick Up Brick” trash mitigation theme throughout some of these slides....

As a formal journalist I’m all about telling the story... and as we discussed earlier – Brick was covered in trash after Sandy... so I started to post about it on Social Media... one day I got a phone call.... Someone wanted to talk with me about the trash situation in Brick! Here’s what they wanted to know... [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOBS2DIK-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOBS2DIK-64)

[64](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOBS2DIK-64)



After that things really took off!
We began organizing “Pick Up Brick”
events regularly!







And then we started to partner with many of the same groups we'd met during the twice a year beach sweeps...





But wait, there's more...

During the pandemic we learned when a proposal was presented to the Commission of a plan to tear down the last big undeveloped property in town, 35 acres that were to be replaced by as many as 50 homes... so in the vein of being present we took action!



The Ocean Star

STAR NEWS GROUP*

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

\$1.00

BAY HEAD | BRICK | LAVALLETTE | MANTOLOKING | POINT PLEASANT | POINT PLEASANT BEACH

68A**C021 **TRAY 22**6

Point Boro students join global summit on climate change

They address shore tourism, beach erosion, ecocultural preservation

BY ANTHONY J. GARCIA
THE OCEAN STAR

POINT PLEASANT — Students from around the world, including a Point Pleasant Borough High School group, met virtually to discuss environmental issues during the 2022 WorldCast Global Climate Change Summit on Tuesday.

The Italian V Honors class taught by Stacey Camillieri

gave a presentation on beach erosion, overtourism and ecocultural preservation during the March 22 summit.

The presentation included a video put together by students that explained the numerous environmental factors including litter, pollution

SEE **CLIMATE** PAGE 4

'Voices of Ukraine' concert on Sunday includes Boro bands

March 27 event to be held at the Strand Theater in Lakewood



MARK R. SULLIVAN THE OCEAN STAR

Advocates for Breton Woods' preservation have been expressing their opposition to the development that would destroy the forests. Currently, a petition on Change.org titled 'Save Breton Woods' has over 6,000 signatures.

Brick planning board extends review of Breton Woods housing proposal

Residents opposing it turn out in force again; hearing to resume on April 18

And once again, we were able to leverage the media to tell the story about why this was a wilderness worth saving!

And when WCBS' Meg Baker stuck her Mic flag into the picture... the victory was ours!

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/brick-township-n-j-residents-pleading-with-local-church-not-to-sell-30-acres-of-undisturbed-woods-to-developer/>

Obviously, I could go on... but I'll leave it here with the
thought I shared earlier....

That just by doing a little bit,
you can make a BIG difference!

