

Corrected

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

of the

BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT, NJ

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:30 PM
Borough Hall

ROLL CALL: Present: Bonna, Esakoff, Gurnwald, Lowrie, Ticktin, Oatis, Tulloss

Absent: Van Salisbury, McBride

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT: Chairperson Grunwald stated: "Let the minutes show that adequate notice of this meeting as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the Open Public Meetings Law has been provided by posting notice on the public bulletin board at the Roosevelt Post Office and Borough Hall. A copy of this notice was e-mailed to the Asbury Park Press and the Times [Trenton] for publication and filed with the Borough Clerk on January 26, 2015."

Motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 1, 2015.

Motion: Michael Ticktin Second: Lou Esakoff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Michael Ticktin, and seconded by Louis Esakoff, that minutes be reviewed and accepted with revisions.

Vote: Yea: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1

Minutes to be accepted with noted corrections.

PUBLIC: No public present

Report of Planning Board Representative:

Mr. Esakoff reported that he is following up on the issue of the Millstone resident who requested a NJDEP variance to build on wetlands abutting Roosevelt. The Roosevelt Town Council, Planning Board and Environmental Commission are not in favor of the planned variance as it has been presented. The planned variance will be presented to the NJDEP; it is not known how the NJDEP will respond.

Report of the Council Representative

Mr. Michael Ticktin reported that the South Valley Rd. reconstruction, which the commission was concerned about, was sent to the soil conservation district; the conservation district also has some concerns which they will work out with the engineers.

Mr. Ticktin also advised that in regard to the abandoned houses in the borough, the town council recently passed an ordinance which will allow the Borough to hold the mortgagee responsible for the exterior upkeep of foreclosed properties.

PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public present.

NEW / OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Grunwald followed up on his previous request for members of the committee to indicate environmental issues they would like to initiate or take the lead on various areas of interest that they may have. Each present member detailed their ideas on their particular area of interest/concern.

Commission Areas of Interest:

C. Henderson – discussed her idea to have a series of articles placed in the Bulletin re: environmental issues. She also talked about the concept of having a resident photography exhibit, possibly featured in the Bulletin, which would demonstrate a facet of Roosevelt under the general caption of “what Roosevelt means to me”. This project might be under the guise of a contest or simply feature honorable mentions.

D. Lowrie – as a liaison with the schools and the alliance for NJ environmental education, Diane had a number of ideas including working with the school construction project team to enhance/utilize environmental concepts such as channeling rain water from the roof towards the garden. She also discussed using nationally recognized milestones, such as Earth Day, to publicize and popularize projects such as increasing the population of the Monarch butterfly.

M. Tulloss – stated that she would like to be the liaison with the various entities that own/manage lands that make up the Borough, e.g. Monmouth County, the State of NJ, the Assunpink Wildlife Management, etc. She feels that working with these entities might assist the Borough in ascertaining the plans for various pieces of property in and bordering the Borough.

L. Esakoff – advised he will continue to research information the availability of home energy audits. He advised that public service no longer offers this as a free service. An

audit by a private company can be expensive unless there are a significant number of houses which might earn a group discount.

M. Tickin – stated that he is continuing his efforts to follow-up on the beaver problem and find out if anything can be done to improve the flow of the creek.

S. Bonna - stated that while she had not come up with a project of her own she is more than willing to assist other commission members with their projects. Chairperson Grunwald pointed out that Stacy's experience as an event planner could be utilized by the commission in a number of their future projects/tasks

Earth Day

Chairperson Grunwald reminded the group that Earth Day (ED) will be on April 22, 2015. The Commission has supported Roosevelt Public School (RPS) ED activities in the past and would like to continue to do so.

Diane Hewlett Lowrie summarized previous activities and reported on the current status of ED plans for 2015, which will take place on May 1; the thought is to tie ED activities into the current construction project at the school. One of the children is canvassing the student body as to what they would like do as a project for ED.

Diane suggested that if any commission members were available for RPS ED activities on May 1, they might come to the school to interact with the students. Additionally, Diane questioned if there was any land available in the borough that might be used by the commission to establish an environmental "patch" of native flowers, etc. A discussion followed of possible sites including the borough "triangles". It was decided to present a request to use the triangles to the town council for approval.

A motion was made by Louis Esakoff to allocate a fund, not to exceed, \$200.00 to support Earth Day activities/projects at the Roosevelt school.
Motion seconded by Mary Tulloss.

Vote: Yea: all Nay: none Abstain: none`

Bulletin Articles/Contributions/ Issues

There further discussion of the potential use of resident created photographs. One suggestion was that the photographs might be showcased in the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company's annual calendar. Other potential projects that were discussed included developing public awareness articles (the presence of bear and coyote populations, national and local environmental days, and planting of plants that will attract butterflies) for placement in the Bulletin; solicitation of public participation in environmental activities.

Mary Tulloss brought up the fact that with the arrival of spring like weather, some people seem to be raking their dead leaves onto the walking paths which is inappropriate. Louis Esakoff pointed out that there is no leaf pickup in Roosevelt so it is difficult to know how to properly dispose of fallen leaves.

Stacy Bonna reported on her attendance at the seminar sponsored by the Association of NJ Environmental Commission (ANJEC). The seminar was divided into three segments and Stacy felt the one segment most relevant to Roosevelt was the one on site plan development particularly as it relates to planned development in the area around Roosevelt. She felt the seminar was very interesting and she brought back a number of brochures and publications.

The commission is a member of ANJEC and so can attend its workshops for free. Membership is expiring in May 2015. Dues are \$290/yr. A motion was made by Louis Esakoff and seconded by Stacy Bonna to approve payment of the commission's annual dues to ANJEC after submission to the town council.

Vote: yea: all nay: none abstain: none

Chairman Grunwald spoke about his correspondence with RAP and advised that Roosevelt can receive credits towards certification from Sustainable Jersey for developing a Creative Team, and for creating an inventory of creative assets.. Sustainable Jersey requires the creation of a Green Team in order to get certification; the Roosevelt Environmental Commission serves as Roosevelt's Green Team. The Creative Team must include a representative of the Green Team. It may be possible that the Green Team could include people who are not on the Environmental Commission. EC members were asked to think if they know anyone outside of the EC who might be interested in serving as the Green Team representative to the Creative Team. If no other people are found, Michael Ticktin volunteered to be the Green Team representative to the Creative team.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Grunwald provided an ERI update from Dr. Hartman who has completed the revisions to the first draft and is finishing up the executive summary.

Chairperson Grunwald also advised that the commission application for another small grant has been denied, possibly because we have just recently received a grant.

Diane Hewlett Lowrie – announced that the state has announced that the next round of trail grants (reimbursement grant) is now available. Mary Tulloss was asked to review the current application and ascertain what could be applied to a new application.

Motion: Michael Ticktin made a motion is to approve application for National Recreation Trail grant. Second: Louis Esakoff.

Vote: yea: all nay: none abstain: none

Motion: Louis Esakoff made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:05 pm. Second by Michael Ticktin.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Deborah L. Thomas, Admin. Assist.