

April 15, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2015 at 7:30 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

New regular member Ilana Janowitz signed the oath of office.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Grunwald, Janowitz, Lowrie, Ticktin

Absent: Bonna, Oatis, Tulloss Van Salisbury-Alt 1, McBride-Alt 2

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."

PUBLIC: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Diane Lowrie that the minutes of March 25, 2015 be accepted. The minutes were accepted with correction on p. 11 under Earth Day, to clarify that the Roosevelt Public School Earth Day activities are taking place on May 1, 2015, and not on Earth Day itself (April 22, 2015).

PUBLIC: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Chairperson Grunwald explained that Mr. Louis Esakoff had resigned from both the Planning Board and Environmental Commission, therefore Mr. Michael Ticktin (who is an alternate member of the Planning Board), will serve as the Planning Board Representative to this Commission.

Mr. Ticktin reported that after being contacted by Councilwoman Jill Lipoti (who is a former NJDEP division director), who told them that rising water levels were endangering the sewage treatment plant, NJDEP has opened up the beaver dam that was blocking the discharge of Assunpink Brook into Assunpink Lake. As a result, Empty Box Brook, which is a tributary of Assunpink Brook, is flowing normally and water levels are down dramatically. Also, Councilman Ticktin attended the Monmouth County Earth Day Summit on 4/15 and will be meeting with county officials to discuss what we need to do in order to get recycling funds to which we are entitled.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Michael Ticktin, Council Representative to this Commission, attended the Monmouth County Earth Day Summit on 4/15 and will be meeting with county officials to discuss what we need to do in order to get recycling funds to which we are entitled.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) Update - Chairman Grunwald reported that Prof. Hartman had experienced some delays in getting the ERI document together but it should be available soon.

Beaver Dam Update - See Council Representative Report.

Next Borough Bulletin Article - Chair Grunwald reported that Ms. Christina Oatis had written and submitted an article about bees to the Borough Bulletin for publication in the May issue. Chair Grunwald will prepare an article announcing the results of the ERI for the June issue.

Appoint Environmental Commission Representative to the Creative Team - Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Chair Grunwald to appoint Ms. Ilana Janowitz as the Environmental Commission representative to the Creative Team. The appointment was approved. The Creative Team is a group from the Roosevelt Arts Project that is working on the documentation necessary for Roosevelt to get Sustainable Jersey credit for activity in the arts.

Sustainable Jersey Update – Chairman Grunwald spoke with the Grants Coordinator from Sustainable Jersey about why the Commission’s most recent application for a grant had been declined. He was told it was primarily due to Roosevelt having received a grant in the last cycle and Sustainable Jersey giving a higher priority to less recent recipients in an effort to rotate the awards. Other considerations included geographic location and higher priority given to municipalities that have already earned Sustainable Jersey certification. Chair Grunwald was assured that the decision did not reflect on the merits of the application, and Roosevelt is encouraged to reapply in the next round of funding.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:

Trails Grant Application - Chairman Grunwald reported that the application for a Recreational Trails Program grant from NJDEP will be sent to the Borough Council for approval to submit. Deadline is April 30; Council meets April 27.

Milkweed Patch for Monarchs - Vice-Chair Lowrie will continue efforts to find a suitable location for a milkweed patch for monarch butterflies, including consideration of Assunpink Wildlife Management Area fields in Roosevelt. Ms. Lowrie also discussed the May 1st Earth Day events at the school, which will include four workshops on wildlife garden, plants and pollinators, an enclosed observation bee hive, and wildflower seeds in clay for children to take home. Commission members are invited to help.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Ticktin and second by Ms. Lowrie this meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Secretary Absent, Listened to Tape, Attests Minutes:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary