

May 20, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 7:30 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Vice Chairperson Diane Lowrie.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Bonna, Janowitz, Lowrie, Ticktin, Tulloss

Absent: Grunwald, Oatis, Van Salisbury-Alt 1, McBride-Alt 2

Vice Chairperson Lowrie 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:** Mr. Tim Hartley, Ms. Lorraine Hartley, and Mr. Robert Clark were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015. The minutes were accepted unanimously. Ms. Tulloss and Ms. Bonna abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

ANJEC – Listing benefits for members [workshops, webinars, road shows, etc.]

Monmouth Co. Mosquito Control Div. – to reduce mosquito larvae habitat namely, county wetland management of waterways

ArcNEWS – Spring 2015 Vol. 37, No. 1 [cartography, GIS, geodesign, career opportunities, training & certification, also demographic data]

Roosevelt Resolution 15-60 approving Environmental Commission’s request to apply for a 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant

Correspondence from Chairman Eitan Grunwald who is unable to attend this evening

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Michael Ticktin reported that the Planning Board had a surprise retirement party for Secretary Ann Kassahun who was indeed surprised. No business; a good time was had by all. She had been Secretary since the late 1980’s.

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Ticktin noted that the Borough Council approved Roosevelt Resolution 15-60 which is the Environmental Commission's request to apply for a 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant from NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

## **PUBLIC:**

Mr. Tim Hartley asked about Resolution 15-60 as it is behind his property [29 Farm Lane]. Vice Chair Lowrie added that the proposal for between Rochdale Avenue and Tamara Drive is to create a new Trail on the upland side of the wetland area, as the original Trail has become wetlands [very muddy]. She explained that there is a map of the area that shows where the wetland delineation line is. The grant money will not be available until next year, so there is still time to look at the specifics of it. Separate grant money was applied for by the student conservation crew to come and do the work. We applied for grant money to pay for materials. This was done in partnership with Assunpink Wildlife Refuge because we want to modify a piece of the Trail that now goes into the cemetery, re-route that section through a nearby field.

Ms. Lorraine Hartley asked about Monmouth County Park walking access. Mr. Ticktin clarified that the County Park has been surveyed on both sides of the road, markers are there now. A piece of woods belongs to the Borough; so the County gets a right-of-way from Roosevelt for the Trail there. County Trails are set up to be horse, bicycle, walking [multi-use] trails. Mr. Ticktin added that there is some history involved in this area, a sunken road shows on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, it seems Lafayette marched where Rochdale Avenue is.

## **NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:**

Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) Update - Dr. Hartman will be at the June 17 meeting. Interesting notices and flyers should be posted/circulated, will try to get an article and insert in the Borough Bulletin. The Commission is trying to make this meeting interesting for the residents, get their input. People come to meetings when they feel something impacts them. There is an old Environmental Commission link that will be checked for use at this time. Also Kelly will be asked if the Borough has a workable projector. There are an Observations and Recommendations sheet and an Executive Summary that can be handouts to the public at this meeting. Also mentioned were wetlands and dry properties, overgrown areas, fallen trees, open space for recreational use, leaves taken into the woods which decay slowly and could be a fire hazard. It was noted that perhaps the State Forestry Agency could be invited to come and present a safety program at some future time. The ERI Report [hard copies] will be delivered to the Borough Hall and Council, Planning Board, and Planner, and it will be available electronically for the residents. The ERI notices/flyers should show the electronic link. Ms. Mary Tulloss will be in charge of light refreshments and Vice Chairperson Lowrie will try to recruit people to help at the ERI Update meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Roosevelt Public School Earth Day - Messrs. Michael Ticktin and Eitan Grunwald and Ms. Mary Tulloss helped with Earth Day at the local school. The children especially enjoyed

the “hands-on” approach of working in the butterfly garden planting flowers that will attract the Monarch butterflies, as they journey across New Jersey on their way to Mexico. This Commission has worked with the school for Earth Day for many years.

Beavers - Mr. Ticktin reported that the Dept. of Environmental Protection broke up the beaver dam again. The water is flowing nicely and less land is covered by water as water levels go down.

Sustainable New Jersey - Ms. Ilana Janowitz reported that she, Chair Eitan Grunwald and Ms. Jill Lipoti [Roosevelt Arts Program, RAP] are working on getting 10-20 points for Roosevelt from Sustainable New Jersey. More later on this.

Monarch Butterflies/Milkweed - Vice Chair Lowrie reported that there is a very large patch of milkweed now growing in Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Roosevelt where the old building used to be. She mentioned two kinds of milkweed: swamp and butterfly. Nobody contacted her for more information regarding the article she wrote for the Borough Bulletin about milkweed and Monarch butterflies, but she did provide a link for interested residents to pursue.

Environmental Award/Roosevelt Public School - The Environmental Commission will again present the James Carnevale Award at the RPS graduation to a student (Anthony Orlando) who has shown initiative for environmental endeavors and been nominated by his teacher for said recognition. This award is given in remembrance of a former Chairperson of this Commission who passed away quite young. Mr. Michael Ticktin made a motion and Ms. Mary Tulloss seconded a motion that George Lang, Chief Financial Officer, be contacted, asked to approve and release the funds [\$50] from our budgeted monies, make a check payable to the student chosen in time for the graduation ceremony. This was accepted unanimously. Mr. Lang will be contacted. The student will also receive a Certificate.

#### **PUBLIC:**

Mr. Bob Clark commented about how our stream is now flowing, BUT we went through a long period that the Dept. of Environmental Protection refused to let us tend Empty Box Brook, our trees are dead as a result, and lots of harm done. Ms. Tulloss said they now realize they “made a mistake” and she will look into it. It was felt a file of all this information should be put together. It has come up before, and the DEP did great damage to Roosevelt. Ms. Tulloss said we should note Item 4 on the ERI Observation and Recommendations about this situation.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss, this meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Attest:

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Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary