

July 15, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Grunwald, Janowitz, Ticktin, Tulloss

Absent: Bonna, Lowrie, Oatis, 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: Messrs. Robert Clark and Steve Taylor and Ms. Sharyn Walz were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss to approve the minutes of June 17, 2015. The minutes were accepted unanimously with correction on page 20 under Presentation, paragraph one, last sentence "Observations and Recommendations will be sent..." to read "The entire Environmental Resources Inventory Report will be sent to the Planning Board to be integrated with the Master Plan and will be sent to the Borough Council and Planner."

CORRESPONDENCE:

Freehold Soil District Report

Roosevelt Arts in the Streets – new group sent us copy of their meeting minutes; they are interested in the Environmental Commission

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Michael Ticktin reported that the Planning Board discussed the new Emergency Services Building and a possible alternative property was checked but found to have wetlands. There were some concerns about noise, but there are Noise Ordinances. It was noted that we need a couple of pumpers, but there are no hydrants in some areas.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Ticktin reported that the **Deli** is being reopened this September. The tenant, Mr. Jason Ragaglia, is a relative of Scotto's in Twin Rivers and the two employees will live in the upstairs apartment which is a condition of the use of this property. They will have pizza, liquor, etc. It was hoped that they will comply with recommendations to repair the parking lot.

PUBLIC: No comments

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Follow-up on Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) Recommendations - The big question is resources to do some of these improvements. Chair Grunwald said that we should have a **Forest Management Plan** with an eye towards fire hazards on the forest floor. Mr. Ticktin suggested we contact the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) as they have people who could come and give us input. Ms. Mary Tulloss reminded us that Dr. Hartman also gave us some websites to contact. This is a good starting point. Chair Grunwald pointed out that local woods are owned by different entities (State of New Jersey/Assunpink, the DEP, Monmouth County, Roosevelt, some in private hands) and there may be separate plans by the various entities. A single plan might be beneficial. Ms. Tulloss mentioned the big problem of dumping grass cuttings and leaves in the woods behind the houses--no composting and nowhere to put this debris. Mr. Ticktin said that the Borough can manage its land better as a start and then bring in others. Chair Grunwald suggested that we form a committee for each of the major tasks. He is interested in forests, is willing to head up this committee. We must reach out to residents to help. Two are here this evening with us. He has been speaking with others.

Invasive Plant Species are very challenging; we should invite the N.J. Invasive Strike Team to help us via a one-day training session. Residents need to be able to identify these species, so we can work against them. Our Vice Chair, Ms. Diane Lowrie, who is currently in Scotland, is interested in these plants and Mr. Taylor who is with us this evening can help people to be able to identify them. Mr. Rod Tulloss knows where these plants are located. Perhaps we can use mugwort against these species. We hope to raise public awareness, then we can take steps to get rid of them. Cost is always a concern. September is the time to target barberry.

Stream Restoration is difficult because Empty Box Brook's ends are owned by the State and the middle part which starts at Valley Road is owned by Roosevelt. If the State can work on it, they have more resources than Roosevelt. Chair Grunwald said that we will need stream monitoring which means training volunteers, getting more information, working also with Millstone, checking existing programs and agencies, and establishing what we are allowed to do and if we have the resources. It was noted that Ms. Jane Rothfuss (former Planning Board Chair) may be able to help; Jill Lipoti (Council Utilities) and members Mary Tulloss and Michael Ticktin are also interested in the streams and storm water. The issue was raised by Chair Grunwald that before any work can be done we need a Storm Water Study and new maps, as the old maps go back to the 1940's. Mr. Ticktin added that we would need a grant. Mr. Taylor, resident present, added that problems of the whole watershed should be evaluated to determine

which part is in Roosevelt. If a large percentage is in the Borough, then it is worth getting the details and a rough estimate. Chair Grunwald added that we need a plan and explained this is a Borough Council decision; however, this Commission, as an “advisory” board, could do some of the “leg work”. Mr. Grunwald had spoken with Mr. Tim Hartley whose property backs up to Empty Box Brook and he would be willing to work on this committee. As committees form, Chair Grunwald will meet and coordinate with them.

Borough Bulletin Articles - There will be a combined July/August summer issue which will come out a bit late. The Bulletin is glad to have our articles. An article by Sharyn Walz on **Invasive Plant Species** will be submitted. It was felt that our articles have some pictures.

Council/Planning Board Referrals to the Environmental Commission - Member Mary Tulloss would like to have clarification on how this Commission is notified for assisting the Council and/or the Planning Board as their **Advisory Board**. Mr. Ticktin said the statute says that when the Planning Board receives a Development Application [Site Plan, Zoning Variance], then the Environmental Commission should be informed for informational purposes. It was felt we should be on their lists to receive notifications. Chair Grunwald added that it is not so much what is mandatory but what is desirable. When something comes up in town, the question is the environmental impact, so there is value of input and advice. We want to get into the loop early, not after the fact. Mr. Ticktin, our Representative to the Council, also gives his report so that the Commission is kept abreast of local happenings. We could get on their lists to see their Agendas and Minutes. Ms. Tulloss added that she would like this Commission to make a proposal to the Council that “The Environmental Commission concurs with the recommendation of the Planning Board that, to the extent possible, parking and driveway paved surfaces for the Emergency Services Building be constructed of permeable material to mitigate negative effects of water issues.” This was seconded by Chair Eitan Grunwald and unanimously accepted by this Commission and will be forwarded to the Borough Council. Chair Grunwald said that he will speak with the Mayor, etc., about this and state that the Environmental Commission would like to hear about environmental matters early in order to give input.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC:

Mr. Bob Clark, commented that maybe the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board should speak up at the Council meeting about **wood chipping** which is an issue every year. He suggests two chippings every year, put it into the budget so that it can be permeable. It was felt that piling is unmanageable and the E.C. should be proactive.

OTHER:

Ms. Mary Tolluss had concerns about the **Deli** reopening, that when the DEP surveyed years ago, the property is so close to the stream/wetlands, no permeable surface over there. She felt there is a new person leasing and he should be given guidance. This will be checked.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss, this meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary