

CORRECTED

January 20, 2016

The Reorganization/Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by the Secretary, Ms. Ann Kassahun.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Bonna, Grunwald, Janowitz, Trammell, Tulloss, Walz

Absent: Van Salisbury-Alt 1,

Ms. Kassahun 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 15, 2015.**"

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Jeff Ellentuck appointed Ms. **Stacey Bonna** as Council Representative to this Commission, 1-year term 1/16-12/18. Also appointed at the Council meeting were **Mr. Joe Trammell** as Planning Board Representative to the Environmental Commission, 1 year term 1/16-12/18; **Ms. Beth Battel** was appointed as Regular Member to complete term 1/15-12/17 vacated by Ms. Oatis; **Ms. Ilana Janowitz** was appointed as Regular Member to fill 3-year term 1/16-12/18 vacated by Mr. Esakoff.

OATHS:

Oaths were completed by **Ms. Beth Battel, Ms. Stacey Bonna, Ms. Ilana Janowitz, and Mr. Joe Trammell.**

REORGANIZATION:

Nomination was presented for Election of a **Chairperson** for 2016 by Secretary Ann Kassahun as follows:

Chairperson: It was moved by Ms. Beth Battel and seconded by Ms. Stacey Bonna that **Mr. Eitan Grunwald** continue as Chairperson. There were no other nominations. This passed unanimously. The **Chairperson, Mr. Grunwald**, now presided over the rest of the Reorganization. Mr. Grunwald graciously accepted continuing as Chairperson, welcomed everyone, especially new members. He said that in this coming year his work schedule will require that he travel out of the country; he will miss some meetings, including March.

Vice Chairperson: It was moved by Ms. Beth Battel and seconded by Ms. Stacey Bonna that **Ms. Mary Tulloss** become Vice Chairperson; there were no other nominations, so this passed unanimously. Ms. Tulloss accepted the position, will be supportive of our Chairperson.

Secretary: It was moved by Ms. Beth Battel and seconded by Mr. Joe Trammell that **Ms. Ann Kassahun** continue as **Secretary**; there were no other nominations, so this passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel, seconded by Ms. Mary Tulloss, and passed unanimously that the Environmental Commission will meet at **7:00 p.m.**, that the Commission continue to meet on the **third Wednesday** [when possible] of the month for the year **2016**. Meetings for each month will be posted in the Borough Hall and at the local Post Office. The Commission accepted unanimously that the year **2016** meetings will be as follows:

Regular Dates

February 17, 2016

March 16, 2016

April 20, 2016

May 18, 2016

June 15, 2016

July 20, 2016

August 17, 2016

September 21, 2016

October 19, 2016

November 16, 2016

December 21, 2016

Motion was made by Ms. Sharyn Walz and seconded by Ms. Beth Battel that the **Asbury Park Press** [daily county newspaper] and the **Times** of Trenton [widely-read daily newspaper] be the **official newspapers** used for public notices; this passed unanimously. [Note: Planning Board Attorney Donato has stated that meetings must be noticed in two newspapers.]

This ended the 2016 Reorganization of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna that the minutes of November 18, 2015 be accepted. The minutes were accepted unanimously; new member Ms. Beth Battel abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell, new Planning Board Representative reported that the Planning Board met in December. A group had walked the creek. Mr. Trammell is checking the oldest town

maps to see changes in the waterways. He has checked maps from 1851 and 1902. Our Chairperson Grunwald mentioned that he also attended this Planning Board meeting, noting that he is in touch with Kevin McNally, the new Chairperson. He reminded him that the Environmental Commission should receive copies of any Site Plans up for review. This will help to keep communication between both the Planning Board and Environmental Commission.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chairperson Grunwald reported that the Contract with the **New Jersey Audubon Society** was approved. Both sides have terms and conditions for protection. It will go before the Borough Council Monday, January 25, 2016 for signing, etc. The next step will be a forester from the Audubon Society (AS) doing a Site Review. If we come up with a **Forest Management Plan** (Plan), our next step will be to create a Management Agreement between Roosevelt and the Audubon Society (AS) to act on our behalf and then we would be eligible for funding. It takes about a year to develop a “Plan” because of the change of seasons and establishing our goals. We will recruit an advisory group, as they have expertise. **Dr. Hartman** has agreed to be part of this group. Others with expertise will have input. Example would be the Fire Company. Information will be shared with our community and Planning Board. Some situations may be “high priority”, for example, evasive species or deer control. Once we have a “Plan” in place, we can proceed with funding, etc. Note that the Agreement itself only covers Municipal property. However, we have had communication but not a meeting with the **Assunpink Wildlife Management Area** (county) and they are interested in what we are trying to do and said they will try to coordinate with the resources they have available. The County had a Forest Management Plan for their Perrineville Lake Park, but Assunpink did not have a Forest Management Plan, so they are more interested now. Chair Grunwald reported that he has been in touch with our **Fire Company** and we are also considering other sources of funding like State Funds for woodland fires. We hope our Fire Company will take the lead. Mr. Trammell asked who clears the growth under the power lines. JCP&L deals with this growth; this land is not municipal land. Mr. Grunwald added that we have woodlands under the Borough, county, state, and private citizens.

Invasive Plant Species - Mr. Steve Taylor reported that he wrote an **article** for our local Borough Bulletin on invasive species. The next article will be on Winter Creeper. He has a plan for a Spring **clean-up** on the right side of **Spruce Lane** depending on when the Borough can arrange a **branch pickup**. Ms. Sharyn Walz mentioned a large group of volunteers that will be available in early April that some of the committees might use. Chair Grunwald said this is a competitive process. Seems applications must be filed and then the “kids” are sent out. Ms. Walz would be willing to work on the formal application and see if we can get this help with the invasive species. We need to know the dates they would be available. Chair Grunwald added that it would have to be agreed on by the Borough Council. The deadline is February 15 and the Council needs a proposal. Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss that we apply for the **Application for volunteers from TCNJ (The College of New Jersey)**. This passed with unanimous vote; Ms. Walz will follow up. Our Representative can present this at the Council meeting.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Committee is Mary Tulloss, Joe Trammell, Michael Ticktin, Jane Rothfuss. Chair Grunwald will help. Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss reported that there is **no current map** and we need to map/factor in the in & out flows. This group needs more people, as they want to do data collection on Empty Brook Creek. Dr. Hartman suggested there is filtration from upstream, the beaver dam, etc. We need to collect water samples for the health of the stream. We need a few more people on this Committee. The Watershed Ambassadors will conduct a **free training course**. We would like to have some high school people trained. Chair Grunwald is interested in the training, if it is within his schedule. This group will work on the training schedule, seems to be for 4 short days or one intensive day, perhaps on a Saturday afternoon. Mary said she will help with scheduling and other loose ends. Mr. Joe Trammell offered to **photograph and print maps** to help. Mr. Trammell had mailed out a letter from the State of New Jersey about creek cleaning guidelines. He explained if they are not cleaned, they will dam themselves and become swamps. Ms. Tulloss noted that the Mosquito Control was supposed to do an overhead spraying. This is done in Spring, not Winter. Mr. Mike Ticktin said no photos (aerial surveys) yet. Mr. Trammell asked if our Commission could have some **space for our paperwork**. Chair Grunwald will check with the Borough and our Ms. Stacey Bonna.

Storm Water System - Chair Grunwald noted that we do not have a current map. We need to factor in the in and out flows and map them. Dr. Hartman had said that in order to do a proper study, we need mapping. Borough Engineer Carmela Roberts was asked about submitting a **proposal**; the costs would be about \$6,000. Chair Grunwald had met with Councilman Tom Curry and plans to also meet with Mr. John Impellizzeri (Council Public Works). A broader issue should be an updated map of the town infrastructure. The most recent map is 1942.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Sustainable Jersey Grant - Chair Grunwald *mentioned that this Commission has applied a \$2,000 small grant from Sustainable Jersey* for unrestrictive general use and there is a deadline. He asked that it be put on the Council Agenda.

Invasive Species Facebook Page- Ms. Sharyn Walz was looking for clarification if the Commission has Borough Council approval for the **Facebook Page**. Chair Grunwald said he spoke with the Mayor, this was discussed about two years ago, was voted on, but not carried out, so we are revisiting it. Chair Grunwald informed us that this was all right. Motion was made by Ms. Sharyn Walz and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna that a free Facebook page be created on behalf of the Invasive Species Committee. It was suggested that comments be moderated by the administrator. Ms. Walz said she was willing to set it up and manage and share responsibilities with another. She felt we need to advertise. There could be links to the Borough Page, etc. Also Ms. April Suk manages the Facebook page for the Borough; she might be a good contact. The Commission was in favor of this Facebook page; Chair Grunwald abstained. Mentioning invasive species, it was noted that Poison Ivy is a homegrown native, growing faster with global warming.

Fire Services Trainer Course – The State Fire Services are looking for municipalities to sponsor training of homeowners to be able to make home assessments, explain/determine the risk(s) of home fire, exposure to field fires, etc. Ms. Walz explained if we were trained, we could include fire hazards along with speaking about invasive species. Chair Grunwald thought this might be a good idea.

PUBLIC:

Mr. Bob Clark, 59 Lake Drive, mentioned smoking fire which smelled like burning tires coming from the direction of Assunpink across from the local horse farm. A truck came from Clarksburg, assessed the problem, called it “peeling out”. Fortunately there was no real problem.

Mr. Ulrich Bonna checked the internet for interesting articles. One article mentioned using goats to munch down vegetation. Mr. Ticktin has noticed that the deer eat a lot and help us. Secretary Ann Kassahun mentioned how goats are tethered and moved along the sides of the roads to keep vegetation in check down where her relatives are in Jamaica, West Indies. It seems to work quite well. Another comment was that some farmers nearby have goats. And Mr. Michael Ticktin said that deer even eat poison ivy.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Joe Trammell and second by Ms. Beth Battel this meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary