

CORRECTED

March 16, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Trammell, Tulloss, Walz, Vacancy, Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Bonna, Grunwald, Van Salisbury-Alt 1

Vice Chairperson Tulloss 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, 2016."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Beth Battel that the minutes of February 17, 2016 be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously with correction on p.8, under Stream Monitoring/Restoration, paragraph 2, line 8, change "creek" to "North Branch of Empty Box Brook (north of Pine Drive)". Another correction under Approval of Minutes was noted on p.6, line 6, regarding the January 20, 2016 minutes, which had been corrected earlier to read "*mentioned* that this Commission had replied to a \$2,000 small grant from *Sustainable New Jersey*" however the word "New" should be omitted so that it reads "*Sustainable Jersey*". Corrections will be made.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) PSE&G Repairs - Replacement and maintenance of natural gas distribution and transmission mains in public rights-of way for 15 counties and their 268 municipalities. They may disturb wetlands and state open waters for maintenance. This is a notification to let us know what they are doing, the rules being found in the NJDEP's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7A which can be downloaded at www.state.nj.is/dep/landuse.
- 2) ANJEC - Renewal of Membership & Benefits for 2016 - They have staff to help, training, networking, magazine and e-newsletter, road shows, an annual Congress, are online at <mailto:info@anjec.org> and can be contacted at 973-539-7547.
- 3) Monmouth-Ocean Development Council Symposium, Wall, NJ, Mar. 29, 2016 - No member was available to attend this meeting.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell, Planning Board Representative, reported that this Board met on March 1, 2016. Michele Donato, Planning Attorney, and Ms. Donna Taylor, Roosevelt Tax Assessor and also Planning Board member, were in attendance. The Planning Board renewed its subscription to Gann Law Books; also the Solar Village new sign was postponed until the next meeting, as no notice was given in the newspapers. Mr. Trammell made corrections to the Environmental Report that he and Chairperson Eitan Grunwald did not collect water samples and that E.C. Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss was at the stream meeting. Mr. Trammel reminded the Planning Board that any new site plans should be reviewed by the Environmental Commission for input. The Planning Board also adopted their 2015 Annual Report.

The Planning Board discussed **Ordinance #16-002**, which the Borough Council has introduced to amend Chapter 23, the “Redevelopment Plan” of the Code of the Borough of Roosevelt. Mayor Ellentuck reviewed the history of the **Gateway Redevelopment Area (garage site)**. Attorney Donato advised that the Planning Board function is advisory, but they should examine the Ordinance for consistency with the Master Plan and she explained many of the problems for redevelopment of these properties. Mr. Trammel questioned Exhibit “B” map of Gateway. Attorney Donato noted that map attached to proposed rezoning exhibit was at odds with the land use map in the Zoning Ordinance. He also asked the legal difference between brewpub and tavern; the brewpub brews beer also. He questioned the DEP signoff of the Gas Station property; It is not DEP but Slack Environmental. And Mr. Trammell offered a motion to restore to the Redevelopment Plan public uses of the Gas Station property to be used as a Firehouse and Attorney Donato commented that under the **Common Law of Sovereign Immunity**, the Governing Body is not subject to its own laws and can make it a public use, even if the zoning doesn’t allow it; therefore, Mr. Trammell withdrew the motion.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Michael Ticktin reported that the Council passed a **Resolution** appointing a shared service with the Millstone certified Recycling Co-ordinator. Regarding the Resolution re the \$1.62 million **Bond Issue** for the Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program for improvements to the **water system**, it will be paid through the bond proceeds. The Council is approving the installation of a metal **historic memorial marker** on the memorial property near the street which is being provided by an organization called the **Jewish-American Society for Historic Preservation**. Jerry *Klinger* contacted Mr. Ticktin several months ago because he found out about Benjamin Brown and was very interested in Roosevelt. This memorial will be put up at no cost to the Borough.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Because Chairperson Eitan Grunwald is out of town at this time, Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss read his Report for this meeting.

“The contract to prepare a **Forest Stewardship Plan** was signed by Mayor Ellentuck and sent to **New Jersey Audubon** for execution. Before they sign, however, a site visit needs to be

conducted by NJA to confirm that our forest is appropriate for the USDA NRCS EQIP Program (the source of potential federal funding for our Forest Stewardship, and the basis for our hiring NJA).”

“A site visit was going to be scheduled with NJA forester Jeremy Caggiano for the week of March 7th; however, we were just informed that Jeremy is leaving NJA and responsibility for the Roosevelt Project will be assumed by another forester, Don Donnelly. Don isn’t available the week of March 7th, and since I will be out of town for a month starting the following week, the site visit will be scheduled for sometime in April after I return, and presumably the Contract will then be signed shortly afterwards.”

Since Eitan will be out of town, he will sign later. Ms. Tulloss mentioned that Diane Lowrie saw a woodpecker living in the trees; the Audubon Society is good about *protecting* species.

Invasive Plant Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that we are doing quite well, most people are behind us. She attended the very interesting Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commission Training by ANJEC on March 5 and has some materials to share with our members. We are ahead of many Commissions as far as the Environmental Resource Inventory is concerned because we are in the action phase now. She did some networking which will be beneficial as we move forward. On March 11 this Committee met at Steve Taylor’s house to outline a plan for the attack on **Autumn Olive** on April 9. We have attracted the interest of the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Company and we may possibly have use of some chain saws. We have the interest of some Rutgers Master Gardeners who need to do some community service to hold up their certifications. Volunteers will help us with several events. Perhaps we can give out a Certificate at the end of the day. This committee has a flyer on “The Source” and will also circulate them around town, possibly some door to door. Mr. Michael Ticktin said that we could contact the County Sheriff for some prisoners to help. Ms Walz will be attending the Fourth Annual New Jersey Invasive Species Conference at Duke Farm on Wednesday, April 6.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss thanked our Sharyn Walz for helping set up the Stream Monitoring. Mary reported that members and volunteers will meet on April 9 in the morning for training, then have lunch and work at **Empty Box Brook** in the afternoon to analyze the samples. Ms. Susan Lee, Americorp Watershed Ambassador, is bringing a few colleagues to help. Volunteers should wear boots, bring a clipboard and pencil. Some who have volunteered are members Joe Trammell, Mary Tulloss, Beth Battel, Michael Ticktin, Stacey Bonna, also Jane Rothfuss and some high school students. Ms. Tulloss posted our flyer on the PTA Facebook page inviting middle school and high school students. This could be a learning experience for them.

Mr. Joe Trammell added that he had communication with *Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association* who spoke with their Science Department and there is a possibility that Roosevelt can be part of their Stream Watch Program. If we are interested in sending out samples to a lab, depending on what we need to check, this contact may help us cut costs, as labs are expensive. The Water Shed Ambassador is free, so we should try them first. It was felt that we should stay in touch with all contacts.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Earth Day/Roosevelt School - Ms. Diane Lowrie reported that she is in touch with our local school re **Earth Day**, Friday, April 22. Their national **theme** has to do with **trees and paper recycling** and they will have a paper recycling person on the program. Students will plant the school garden. Ms. Lowrie will be the coordinator between the school and the Environmental Committee. Since this Commission contributes to this school project, Ana Debevec should be contacted re monies that we can spend on our school's Earth Day. (See Other Business)

Recreation Trails Grant - Ms. Diane Lowrie reported that Roosevelt got a \$8,000 **grant** from the Student Conservation Association for materials to work on two sections of the **Woodlands Trail** (the bridge at Tamara and North Rochdale). Several broken bridges will be replaced. Toward the end there is a loop of trail that veers off which they will make better. The Trail goes behind Solar Village toward the Synagogue's private part of the cemetery. They will bring the Trail away from the **Jewish Cemetery**. Another problem is long grass that could burn; they will be looking into solutions. They will be working around July 11. It was suggested that we have a public **Trail Information Session**. It could be at the April 20 meeting.

Other Business - Ms. Tulloss has concerns that the **special trees at the school** might be taken down; she suggested a **plaque to mark them**. A special sweet gum tree has already been taken down. Ms. Tulloss would like this Commission to revisit this situation soon. Mr. Ticktin mentioned that a tree fell close to the Roosevelt monument recently. Ms. Lowrie said she could work up a tree program so that each class at the school could be included. She also said the **Monarch butterfly** population had quadrupled, but a hail storm and snow in Mexico caught a lot of them as they were leaving. Plant milkweed to help them along the way. Some places have cheap or free "plugs" for distribution.

Mr. Joe Trammell heard that some people came on Tamara Lane, pushed dirt around which stopped proper draining. He will check more. The creek is continuing to rise, could be beavers again; Assunpink should be notified. Also salamanders are now nesting. Mr. Trammell also informed members that Assunpink Wildlife burned a tick infested field near the cemetery.

PUBLIC: Mr. Bob Clark asked if there was any word on native species being available to the public for planting after clearing out invasive plants. Ms. Diane Lowrie will check a place where we might be able to get free small trees; check red bud, pine, holly, and dogwoods. Mr. Ticktin added that the DEP has trees cheap, if you have over five acres of land.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Beth Battel, this meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary