

CORRECTED

April 20, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald

ROLL CALL:

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

Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Van Salisbury-Alt 1

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, 2016."

Chairperson Grunwald explained that the order of this meeting would be changed to allow the Public discussion of the Woodland Trail at this time and then return to the regular Agenda.

PUBLIC:

Roosevelt Woodland Trail - Ms. Diane Lowrie reported that the Borough of Roosevelt Environmental Commission got a grant for \$8,000 from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreation Trails Program to buy materials. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) also received a grant to supply labor for two weeks this summer to work on the Trail project. Part of the Trail is in Roosevelt and part is in Assunpink Wildlife Refuge. We will work on the piece between Tamara Drive and Rochdale Avenue and just below the cemetery. There will be six high school students and two group leaders in the SCA crew (from all over the country). She added that the leaders are trained and certified, but she was not sure where these students were from, as they apply and can be sent anywhere in the country. Ms. Lowrie showed some maps of the work area; she is working with Ms. Jill Lipoti. She showed where the Assunpink property was located and the Trail continuing near the cemetery, leaving the woods and going through a field. Ms. Lowrie mentioned overgrowth and puncheons (wooden foot "bridges") rotting which will be replaced in wet places, fallen trees, roots, etc. which the students will work on. They would like to build a trailhead, if there is enough money. She showed the Commission a new map of Assunpink Wildlife Management Area which has not yet been seen by the public and our Trail will be part of this map.

Question was asked "who maintains the Trails now?" It was noted that Tom Curry *who was* the Public Works Council member and part of the maintenance contract the town *has included* mowing. Ms. Lowrie said that Assunpink does some maintenance also. When asked

about the building of puncheons, it was felt that they would probably be built on site as they are heavy. Another question was “would there be a connection to the school”. Ms. Lowrie said there is a lot to be seen behind our Roosevelt’s head monument. Housing the students together possibly at Allaire State Park is being looked into, as they could have a “group” experience. Ms. Lowrie encouraged members and audience to get in touch with her if they can help the students. (The Federal Highways Administration’s Recreation Trails Program is administered through the New Jersey Trails Program.) Ms. Lowrie spoke of the need of a map of the recreational trails, also perhaps booklet for the Roosevelt and Assunpink part of the Trail. She will look at some brochures for ideas, contact Monmouth County, and the Borough might be able to apply for a future grant. Chairperson Grunwald thanked Ms. Lowrie for doing an amazing job with this project.

Earth Day/Roosevelt Public School - Ms. Lowrie also reported that Earth Day will be this Friday, April 24, 9:45-2:00, at our local school. Ms. Lowrie is the volunteer for our Environmental Commission and reported that the school will rotate four sessions: (1) paper making, (2) identifying trees, (3) art and nature, and (4) the monarch garden. If it rains, the garden session will be cancelled. The New Jersey State Park Service are sending four people to help. Interested members and residents can attend and help.

Chairperson Grunwald now returned the meeting to its regular order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Beth Battel that the minutes of March 16, 2016 be accepted.

These minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on p.11, under Report of Council Representative, line 7, change “Jerry Clinger” to read “Jerry **K**linger” and on p.12, line 11 from the top, change “Audubon Society is good about species.” to read “Audubon Society is good about *protecting* species.” Correction was made on p. 12, under Stream Monitoring/Restoration, second paragraph, line 1, change “had communication with an interested person” to “had communication with *Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association*”. Chair Grunwald and Member Bonna abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station – Class/Stormwater Management \$415

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell, Planning Board Representative, reported that this Board met on April 5, 2016. It was reported at this meeting that Roosevelt took a *resident* to court and he was advised that it is against zoning to turn a private house into a Bed & Breakfast establishment and they can be fined. Also the Senior Housing Corporation wanted to put up a sign, but this was postponed. The Resolution #16-002 vote was also postponed (see April minutes).

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chairperson Grunwald reported that **New Jersey Audubon** is to work with us in developing our Forest Management Plan. We have reached an agreement and the Contract has been signed by the Mayor and sent to Audubon; we are waiting for them to countersign so the Contract is executed. Next step is to develop a Management Agreement that is taken to the Federal Agency for approval. They have not only lost the forester who was to work with Roosevelt, but have a second vacancy, so they are holding off for now to fill those vacancies. This may take a few more months. Chair Grunwald reported that he has been in touch with *Peter Winkler* who is the Acting Superintendent for the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Winkler has checked the dam and the water levels have remained low and now have pipes to reroute the water soon. Member Joe Tammell added that the water levels near where he lives is not the beavers' fault; a tree had fallen, so he removed it and the water is now running.

Invasive Species - Mr. Steve Taylor reported that the attack on invasive **Autumn Olive** took place as planned. The volunteer turnout was excellent and they handled 250 square feet per hour per person. There is an article in the local Borough Bulletin that summarizes what was done and what residents can also do to help fight invasive species. There will be some more articles appearing in the Bulletin.

Ms. Sharyn Walz added that we had help from our **Volunteer Fire Department** who came the evening before the event with their chainsaws and because the workers could not even get into the thickets where the Autumn Olive was, they helped clear some pathways in the thickets for them. **Allen's Tree Service** also came and helped; they will be picking up the branches anyway. They said they would take care of the big stumps we left. Ms. Walz told them that she was not asking them on behalf of the Borough itself, as she did not have that authority to pay them, just needed a favor, so *Allen's* guys said that they do favors for Roosevelt all the time. Chair Grunwald asked Ms. Walz to inform Kelly in the Borough Office, as Alan's folks will be on Borough property. Member Walz said they had five people the first time and the second time eight people helped. Chair Grunwald said this event went very well, was fun, was very well organized. He thanked the Clarks who live nearby and helped, also thanked Sharyn for arranging for food and the folks who worked so hard.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss reported that Stream Monitoring was in two parts: April 9 was bad weather, so they had the **Americorp Watershed Ambassador, Ms. Susan Lee**, give a presentation at the Borough Hall on habitat evaluation and biological evaluation. There were a dozen volunteers, including some Environmental Commission members. The volunteers learned what we would be looking for. Then on Sunday, April 17 ten volunteers came, AWA Lee came with two other Ambassadors to work with us through the **training**. They volunteer also learned how to fill out data sheets, learned how to make multiple measurements about the depth and width of the stream, how to poke with their big nets around in the stream **collecting samples** which we brought back to the Borough Hall where they were taught how to dip out the muddy water and look for tiny macroinvertebrates. Our group found 70 altogether; the trainer expected our group to find 100. The Stream Monitoring/Restoration Committee will meet on Saturday, April 30 to plan when we will do

our sampling. We will need to buy our own buckets, nets, and a list of things for sampling. It was suggested that we appeal to the community, but Chair Grunwald reminded us that the Environmental Commission has a **grant from Sustainable Jersey** for ideas like this. So our Ambassador gave us a list of sampling items needed. Vice Chair Tulloss suggested an article in our Borough Bulletin. A data log will be kept for comparison with other communities. These water creatures tell the state of our streams. As this is educational, Ms. Lowrie said she could speak with the school early in the school year, so that local students can participate.

OLD BUSINESS:

Standing Water - Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned there is a lot of **water along Tamara Drive** for some time now. Pools are above creek level which will mean mosquitos soon. It seems someone shored up the bank and the water is trapped, no channel. Too much breeding right now to do much. Ms. Beth Battel suggested checking with local people for more information.

Tree Labels - Ms. Tulloss mentioned again putting **plaques on important school trees**. Some are pine seedings of famous trees. (see March minutes, p. 13) Mr. Michael Ticktin said he would write to the local school about this.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Roosevelt Public School Earth Day - Ms. Diane Lowrie mentioned that there is one professional coming for Earth Day, will cost \$150. This amount was given by this Commission last year. Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Mr. Michael Ticktin to **approve \$150 gift** to the Roosevelt School Earth Day program this year. Approved unanimously.

July 4th Celebration - Last year our local local Fire Department did a great job at this Celebration, but they will not be able to participate as they do not have the manpower. It is hoped that we can have hamburgers. Our Commission will have a table, maybe have a paint-the-birdhouse project for the children. There are kits for this. Ms. Mary Tulloss will look into this, however, our funds are limited. Chair Grunwald felt our table is a good way to keep the Commission in the town's eye. Ms. Diane Lowrie mentioned a scavenger hunt using clip boards to record things found, and Mr. Joe Trammell felt we could educate the children at our table on things we do, perhaps help them find their house on our town map, making it interesting for them. We could publicize some of the things we do: forest management, invasive species, stream monitoring. This could be interesting for adults and children. Motion was made by Ms. Sharyn Walz that the Environmental Commission participate in the July 4th Celebration with some type of interactive table exhibit, second was by Ms. Stacey Bonna, unanimously accepted.

PUBLIC:

Mr. Tim Hartley suggested showing some sample *bugs* from stream monitoring on July 4th. This was well received as interesting for the public. Ms. Stacey Bonna will help.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Tickin and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna, this meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary