

CORRECTED

September 21, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, September 21, 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, Walz, Vacancy
Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Tulloss, 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."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Mr. Joe Trammell that the minutes of July 20, 2016, be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections to be made on last line of page 27, change Spruce Court to "*Spruce Lane*"; and on page 28, under Forest Management, lines four and five, "(1) Federal plan" should be changed to "*(1) State plan*" and "(2) State plan" should be changed to "*(2) Federal plan*". Ms. Beth Battel abstained; she was absent at the July meeting. The August 17 meeting was cancelled.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell reported that this Board met on **August 2, 2016**. They worked on the Resolution on Ordinance 16005 which passed; Resolution on Ordinance 16007 amended Development Plan, also passed; and Resolution on Subdivision had a small change of Roman numeral VI to IV. (See July 20, 2016 E.C. Minutes) It was a very short meeting. Representative Trammel had to miss the meeting of **September 16, 2016**; however, Mr. Ticktin was present and said that the Council referred to the Planning Board the issue of the designation of this Borough Hall property as an area in need of rehabilitation -- the reason being that would allow the work to be done on the Fire House under the Housing & Rehabilitation Law which precludes the possibility of a referendum being enforced. The Borough is now under pressure to do this due to violations. The Planning Board is asking Mr. Tom Thomas to prepare a Report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Stacey Bonna, Council Representative, reported that they talked about the Emergency Services Building. Also, they did not discuss the County transferring the Witches Hollow Road property at this time. (See July 20, 2016 E.C. Minutes)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chair Grunwald refreshed this Commission with a **summary** of what we have tried to do so far. We were going to try to work with the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan that could be funded by the Federal Government, as we needed a non-public entity to serve as our partner in order to access those funds. Audubon came back to us when we were ready to sign stating they had lost staff (foresters) and were trying to replace them. In the meantime, they don't see being able to work with us in the foreseeable future. This means we have to go back to consider some of the other proposals we have received, establish what our issues are, and implement a plan. **The strategy originally was to develop two plans: a Community Forest Management Plan** that could be funded by the State as well as the **Forest Stewardship Plan** funded by the Federal Government, try to hire one qualified forester who could produce two different plans, so we could qualify for the two funding sources. There are only thirteen foresters in the State of New Jersey that carry these credentials and we had received only three proposals; we selected NJAS. **Only one forester, Ronald Farr**, who has the proper credentials to prepare a plan was interested and is **still available**; but he cannot provide the non-profit partnership to access Federal funds. Chair Grunwald had asked NJAS if we used our own properly qualified forester, could they help us. They didn't feel it was very viable to do it this way, but under the present circumstances, with a qualified forester, they might review it and sign off on it to help us with Federal funding. There is no guarantee.

Chair Grunwald mentioned that we have **received approval for a State grant for \$3,000** generally used by Shade Tree Commissions to deal with individual trees along the streets and public parks, but a portion of it could be devoted to a forest preserve to do some stewardship. He suggests that we take that \$3,000 to hire the forester to do a **Community Forest Management Plan** and have it focus as much as possible on the original Environmental Goal Plan which is to deal with the Forest Preserve with emphasis on fire hazard mitigation and invasive plant species control. Then we can apply for the larger grant for the Forest Stewardship Plan next. Chair Grunwald suggested that we go to the Borough Council requesting their approval to proceed with hiring the forester via contract using our Borough Attorney. There is a possibility we may need additional funds to complete this work. If we want to access the Federal funding, there will have to be a second plan. That would be the Forest Stewardship Plan. **Forester Ronald Farr has quoted us \$3,250 for a Community Forest Management Plan.** And perhaps at some point we can get back with the N.J. Audubon Society. Also in order to complete the Community Forest Management Plan, we are required to do a **Hazardous Tree Inventory** which is identifying problem trees on public property. This could be done by a certified tree expert like Allen Tree Services, but it would be an added expense. There must be *cooperation* between these other workers and our Public Works. We also need an estimate of expenses to purchase/plant trees in our new Spruce Lane/Route 571 corner park.

Chairperson Eitan Grunwald made a **motion** that the Environmental Commission recommends to the Borough Council that we proceed with our forestry services to develop a Community Forest Management Plan subject to review and approval of a contract by the Borough Attorney and Council and to also request an additional \$250 above the \$3,000 Grant that we have received for that purpose. [The Forester has asked for \$3,250] Second was by Mr. Michael Ticktin; this was approved unanimously.

Chair Grunwald also mentioned that since the last time we met he has learned that the **Freehold Soil Conservation District** is considering a pilot project to create a **non-profit to help municipalities access Federal funds**. We were invited to send an inventory of our parcels which is a listing of our open space. This was due by September 15 and was sent on time. If we qualify and are accepted to this pilot project, perhaps we can access Federal funds through partnering with this new organization.

Invasive Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that this committee received approval from the Borough Council for \$800 for removal of stumps and dropping off a truckload of wood chips by Allen Tree Services at the new **small pocket park** at the corner of Rt. 571 and Spruce Lane. Mr. Steve Taylor has created a map of what this park will look like. This committee is looking for some **volunteers to pick up sticks**, etc. and this area is beginning to look quite nice. Their next work will be to build the beds and lay the mulch chips now for planting our butterfly park in the Spring. They are gearing up for October 29 (rain date is November 5) to **pull out invasive species along the Woodland Trail** in the area between the bike path on North Valley Road and Rochdale Avenue. They will cut up the debris in small pieces and leave it on the forest floor. The clean-up work at the pocket park, however, is leading to piles of big sticks, could be a fire hazard. They are hoping to get help from the Council via a possible brush pick-up. No answer from the Council yet. This Committee is posting flyers on the bulletin board next to the Post Office and has advertised in the Borough Bulletin, the Roosevelt Voice, and in the Community Source to attract volunteers. Motion was made by Ms. Sharyn Walz and second by Chair Grunwald for \$60 from our grant monies for refreshments for the volunteer workers. This passed unanimously.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss was in Canada, so Ms. Beth Battel reported that the Committee has **obtained monitoring equipment** that will be stored at the Borough Hall. When equipment is needed, teams should check with Kelly/Public Works for pick-up and return. Jane Rothfuss has coordinated the packing and storing of this equipment and she is also the coordinator for team sampling dates, so there will be no conflict for dates equipment is needed. People trained in monitoring will organize group(s) of two to four members, pick a date, and **check with Jane Rothfuss for equipment availability** and indicate where they are planning on sampling. It is hoped that Eitan Grunwald, Mary Tulloss, or Jane Rothfuss will be able to go out the first time with the group(s) sampling to help them with the procedure, etc. Yesterday Beth Battel and Joe Trammell had planned to go out behind his house; it was dry, but then it rained, and we were trained not to go out after a heavy rain, so they need to reschedule this monitoring. Chair Grunwald added that Mary had received an e-mail from the **new Watershed Ambassador who is replacing Susan Lee** saying that he would like to attend our next meeting to introduce himself, etc. Chair Eitan noted that it was getting cold to do stream monitoring. This meeting might be done in the Spring to be more effective.

OLD BUSINESS:

RPS Historic Tree Plaques - Re signs for the **historic trees at the Roosevelt Public School**, Chair Grunwald mentioned that Mary Tulloss, who is in Canada this evening, had been referred to a sign maker who works with State Parks. He can be expensive (\$1,000) depending on what we want. We could find lower cost options on-line. Member Stacey Bonna suggested reaching out to some of our local artists. *It was also mentioned that the new "Town" sign* across from the Post Office being was put up at no cost to the Borough or perhaps the local school children could have a project. The school also has a kiln. Perhaps the school could do this, as it does not really seem to be an Environmental Commission project. We will pass this feedback to Mary.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

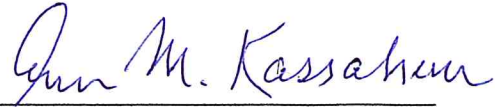
Trails Project - Diane Lowrie was not present this evening, so Chair Grunwald reported that the \$8,000 Trails Grant we received was just for materials and tools. For the work done, we **came in under budget** and have 18 months to spend the remainder. We need to follow up the work done and see what our priorities might be. If it is not in the budget submitted and approved by the State, then we have to go back and ask them to approve a modification amendment. He added that we need to **use this money or we will lose it** and that we must think of priorities. Diane has been in some discussions with the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area which is interested in doing some things that relate to the Trails. In particular, they are thinking about placing something like a kiosk fixture at the entrance(s) of the Trails; it is a small shelter, will have a map put on it, and they would have printed maps that people could take/use. *It might be similar to the kiosk at the Rocky Brook Trail entrance on Agress Road.* If they do this, maybe we could partner with them. We could contribute the materials and they could do the design and construction. This is only in the "idea phase" right now. Chair Grunwald believes this is part of a larger effort. Michael Ticktin explained our part in this larger Monmouth County Trail. Member Sharyn Walz thought this was a good idea. Re equipment, she said we could use a chainsaw. Chair Grunwald said a **chainsaw** is in the budget. However, there are safety issues to consider like who will be able to use this "hazardous" equipment and whether the user would have to be trained. Chair Grunwald mentioned some **puncheons** near the Sewer Plant in need of repair/replacement. **ATV's have been seen on the Trail** and there is concern of them rolling over the puncheons. Member Michael Ticktin suggested checking our Ordinances regarding ATV's on the Trail and the placing of signs, especially at the Entrances that no motorized vehicles are allowed on the Trail. Stacey Bonna will mention the signs to the Council and check "Build a Sign" on-line and other options for purchasing signs. Signs should be covered under the remaining monies, no labor charges. Chair Grunwald mentioned that the new entrance to the Trail is now much closer to our local school [behind the Amphitheater] and the Environmental Commission has been invited to meet with the teachers about working with the children and using the **Trail as an educational experience**. He informed this Commission that Diane Lowrie is working with the **School Administrator, Mary Robinson Cohen**.

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Sharyn Walz this meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann M. Kassahun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary