

February 15, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Bonna, Grunwald, Murray, Tulloss,
 Felong-Alt 1, Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Hartley, Walz

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 23, 2017."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Tulloss and second by Ms. Felong that the Reorganization Minutes of January 18 be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously, no corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Hartley is out-of-state at the present time, so Mr. Ticktin reported that the **Master Plan** is now being worked on by Mr. Tom Thomas, Planner. This is done every ten years. Chairperson Grunwald mentioned that he believes that the Master Plan is available online and we have been asked if anyone on this Commission could look at it for comments by March. The Environmental Resources Inventory we submitted last year is incorporated into the Master Plan.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Stacey Bonna reported that **Resolution 17-39**, Addendum to Borough of Roosevelt Consulting Services Agreement for Forestry Services, to prepare the community Forest Plan and **Resolution 17-36**, Aerial Mosquito Control Within Roosevelt, have both been approved. Also the **Deer Exclusion** paperwork has been approved by the Borough Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chair Eitan Grunwald said that our **Forester, Ronald Farr**, came to Roosevelt last Wednesday, February 8, and met with him, Ms. Jill Lipoti, and Mr. Stephen Taylor. They did a drive around town to introduce him to our trees. They did some walking also.

Forester Farr is working on a **Preliminary Draft**, using our input, revisions, etc., and then will present it to us and a few local interested residents by the end of March. We can then publicize the April meeting, have him come and speak to the Commission and any local residents present.

Invasive Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz was unable to attend, so Ms. Kimberly Felong reported that they talked about where to do some planting of red buds, possibly behind Solar Village or the triangle area on Homestead and Valley Road. They also talked about the **Butterfly Park** (corner of Rt. 571 and Spruce Lane) and the town **July 4th celebration**, perhaps having a spinning wheel game with questions and answers feature. Mr. Bob Clark, interested resident, mentioned the need to include the **Butterfly Park** in the Borough Mowing Program. There was some discussion. It was noted that Kelly is helpful and she can get an estimate to bring this before the Borough Council. Perhaps the Council might want to add more to this, seek proposals for the best pricing for work in several areas. It was noted that sometimes contractors change. It was suggested that we might want to identify what needs to be done, the scope of services needed, as a large portion of this area is covered with wood chips. Ms. Beth Battel suggested that our Council Representative take this to the Council; Kelly will be there. Chair Grunwald will look into this further. Mr. Clark also mentioned branch pickup; this is already in the works. There will be a followed up.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that she sent out an e-mail recently regarding **Spring training**, but only got two replies. She would like to see larger coverage, perhaps in our **Borough Bulletin**. Chair Grunwald offered to help with sending this to our local **Bulletin** (they have deadlines). Ms. Bonna mentioned that it costs about \$60 to send notices of events, etc. to all Roosevelt homes via the local Post Office. She will check the **Bulletin** and Postal Service, so that we have more information when we need such services. Our **new Watershed Ambassador, Andrew Garcia**, was present this evening. He is available April 15 and April 29, both Saturdays, for **training**, and also May 6. Ms. Tulloss will work on April 29 as the training date. Also the trainees will need lunch, perhaps pizza. Chair Grunwald said last year we had funds to cover this; but this year it could be taken from our Environmental Commission Budget. Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna to request \$200 from the Environmental Commission Borough Budget for lunches for the training date. This passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sustainable Jersey Certification - Chair Grunwald spoke about how we could use things we are already doing in our municipality to get points/credits. These would have to be written up with documentation and be submitted. For example:

- (1) **Buy Fresh, Buy Local Action** - Chair Grunwald mentioned our compiling a list of local farms. The Mendies Farm is local and the list can be extended to other farms close by, such as Lee's Turkey Farm/East Windsor, Corner-Copia/Mercer St./Hightstown, Produce Paradise/Assunpink, and a farm stand on Etra Road, (can check name when it opens), etc. We could watch out for other nearby stands. He added that we must include what is within our municipality boundary, but are not limited to that. We can make the list available on-line and can promote the benefits of buying local and eating fresh. There can be a legal disclaimer on the bottom of the list, if needed. Motion was made by

Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss to follow through on this project; this was unanimously accepted.

- (2) Creative Team - Chair Grunwald mentioned the creation of a Creative Team which was actually done a while ago. We have sort of a built-in Arts Council in the form of the **Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP)**, so we can take an existing organization (RAP) and have them serve as the Creative Team for the municipality. **Sustainable Jersey** has technical requirements that RAP is already responding to. One is that there needs to be representation on the Creative Team by someone from the Green Team. Chair Grunwald explained that the Environment Commission was designated as the Green Team. Ilana Janowitz was our representative, but she moved away; so we need a new person for this position. This representative would go to a yearly meeting, mostly a formality. Ms. **Stacey Bonna** volunteered to be the **Green Team Representative to the Creative Team**. Chair Grunwald added that our Municipality (Borough Council) now has to pass a Resolution endorsing the Creative Team. Chair Grunwald will pass Ms. Bonna's name along to Ms. Jill Lipoti, so that her name can be included in the Resolution as the Environmental Commission Representative.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Deer Exclusion Fence - Chair Grunwald mentioned that the Commission must spend Sustainable Jersey grant monies by the end of March. The deer exclusion fencing will cost approximately \$230. Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna to purchase and install the deer exclusion fencing at an approximate cost of \$230 using Sustainable Jersey grant monies and also to approve up to \$50 for signs from our Environmental Commission Borough budget. Ms. Mary Tulloss is working on signage. Ms. Stacey Bonna mentioned a good place to purchase signs is Alpha Graphics in Lawrenceville. This motion was carried unanimously. It was noted that Sustainable Jersey has separate school programs and they get their own credits.

Monmouth County Open Space Plan - Monmouth County Park System is doing their Open Space Plan for our county and **would like to hear from municipalities**, asking if we can come and do a presentation, as this helps them. Their time frame is over the next few months, first draft by end of April, **finished by June**. Chair Grunwald wrote back to get more information, and a lot will fall to the Borough Council and Planning Board. We are interested in **Perrineville Park** which is still in development, so we will want a voice during the planning. He has been in contact with the Mayor and Kevin McNally, Planning Board Chair, and thought we could invite them to a preliminary meeting to start the discussion with our Mayor, representatives of the Planning Board and Borough Council, and see what they are looking for. If it seems worthwhile, have a public meeting and the Planning Board could host them. Mr. Mike Ticktin added that Open Space involves the Environmental Commission. Let us hear them. Chair Grunwald has to make a response back to the Park System quickly, as he will be out-of-town much of March; therefore, he asked who would be willing to represent the Environmental Commission. Mr. Ticktin volunteered and Ms. Beth Battel is willing, if she is in town that evening. She also will be out-of-town in March. Chair Grunwald will pass this information to the Borough.

RPS Earth Day - Chair Grunwald informed this Commission that Diane Lowrie may not be able to help at the school on Earth Day. The School needs to know if our Commission can help this year at the Roosevelt Public School's Earth Day. New member, Kimberly Felong, said she is willing to help and will get in touch with Ms. Lowrie for details and let the Commission know. We do contribute money to help. Ms. Tulloss added that they have professionals working with the students. Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Beth Battel that the Environmental Commission contribute \$200 to the Roosevelt Public School for Earth Day (helps pay speakers, etc.); this was accepted unanimously. Ms. Mary Tulloss said she would attend; Chair Grunwald will be out-of-town.

Trail Markers - Ms. Mary Tulloss volunteered with the Kindergarten walking the children in the woods recently. Chair Eitan Grunwald added that he was walking in the woods with the Forester last Wednesday and he also ran into a "gang of kids with teachers, about 30 to 40 kids holding hands". It seems that when the Eagle Scouts were here and built that trail, they put up some **sign posts** which were 4 by 4 **markers** of treated lumber with a number 1-10 on top. The children matched what they saw at the various numbers. Chair Grunwald said that the numbers had little sayings like "Number 4 has run so wet, it is off the path now set" "Number 7 act like a frog, jump the log." The **numbers** were providing a **stopping point for the students**. Question is if we can restore the missing numbers, so they can continue to use them. It seems the teachers wanted to make use of the Trail, talk with students at these sites. Mr. Nicholas Murray said he could help with materials and Ms. Stacey Bonna said her husband, Ulrich, has equipment and would help. Motion was made by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Beth Battel to restore these markers on the Woodland Trail. The vote was unanimous.

Rain Barrels - There was talk of collecting water in rain barrels on roofs that Roosevelt owns, namely, the Municipal Building and the Water Plant. Comments were that this was a huge project and is also expensive. Our **new Watershed Ambassador, Andrew Garcia**, has read about rain barrels. These barrels collect water for additional uses like washing the car, watering the garden/lawn. This water also draws mosquitos, even if covered.. Members did not see this project for Roosevelt.

Other - Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned Monmouth County taking the strip of land at Oscar Lane/Witches Hollow Road and Mr. Ticktin explained that it is 29 feet, now pedestrians can walk there. Roosevelt did not want the County to pave it and put a road through (traffic from Millstone). Mr. Ticktin asked if we could get the students back in Roosevelt this summer. Chair Grunwald said that it took a lot of planning to get them, too late to do it for this summer.

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Beth Battel, this meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary