

CORRECTED

March 22, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:07 P.M at the Borough Hall. Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss presided. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahun.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Murray, Tulloss, Walz, Felong (Alt-1), Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Bonna, Grunwald, Hartley

Vice Chairperson Mary 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 23, 2017."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Kimberly Felong that the Minutes of February 15, 2017 be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on page 7, first paragraph, line 2, change "November 15, 2017" to "*February 15, 2017*" and on page 8, under Invasive Species, last line, change "There will be a followed up" to read "*There will be a follow up.*"

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: No report

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chair Eitan Grunwald was out of town but left the following report which Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss read as follows:

Our forester, Ron Farr, has completed a preliminary draft of the **Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)**. Eitan has reviewed and commented on the Draft. Ron is now making revisions, which will be forwarded to the Forest Management Planning Advisory Group and the Environmental Commission for further review and feedback. We anticipate the revised version to be ready prior to the April meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Invasive Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that this Saturday the weather will be warm, so at 10 o'clock members will work on the **deer enclosure project**. All members were invited to come and help, bring ear plugs and gloves, as this is the project where the post-driving mechanism makes a lot of noise, so that the deer stay away from the area. They will also be

planting the left-over red bud trees at Solar Village, removing invasive plants at **North Valley Road and Homestead Avenue at the triangle**, and land near Solar Village which belongs to Assunpink. We must co-ordinate with Assunpink. She suggested that this be done before the next branch pick-up, this date not yet set by the Borough. She suggested that we write something up, as we will have to get Borough approval. Ms. Walz also mentioned that Autumn Olive, which is an invasive, is also growing near the parking road at Solar Village. All this has been going on for years. Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned that at the **triangle** there must be some kind of infection (fungus) because the trees died in a row. She felt we should try to find out what it was or still is affecting these trees, and hopefully remedy the problem. This process has been going on for several years. Mr. Ticktin said the Borough has an arborist; perhaps we could get some information from him. Ms. Walz said she will write up a plan for Commission review which can then be sent on to our Chairperson Grunwald for review, and on to the Council.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that this team will have a refresher **class the morning of April 29** with our Watershed Ambassador, Andrew Garcia. She put an article in the Borough Bulletin inviting residents. We may also send out a mass flyer mailing in the Bulletin. We hope for good weather. They will work in Empty Box Creek, perhaps in the same area as before, and may expand a bit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Repair/Replacement of Trail Puncheons and Markers - Mr. Nicholas Murray reported that he and Chair Eitan Grunwald walked along the trails to check the condition of the **puncheons and markers**. He will make contact with Kelly Mitchell/Borough Hall to see what materials we have to work with. He and Eitan also had spoken with Lorisa Bondy and the conversation was that some puncheons could be replaced, but perhaps buying a better model might be beneficial. This is being looked into. He sent the link out, awaiting some responses. He and Eitan had talked about funding, noted the Trails Grant that we have is itemized and trail markers are not on it. So if we wanted to use that Grant, we would have to submit paperwork and might not get approved. There is a **Ron Fillep Woodlands Trail Memorial Fund** of \$355 that we could use, our costs being about \$350 for markers and signs. This will have to be submitted. Some markers are moveable, they are driven a few feet into the ground. We had vandalism, so do not want markers that can be easily removed with a tool. They should be about four feet tall, labeled. Diane Lowrie added comments. Mr. Murray made a motion that we use the funds in the Ron *Fillep* Woodlands Trail Memorial Fund for trail markers and identification signage. This was seconded by Ms. Beth Battel and unanimously accepted by this Commission.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Trail Vandalism - Ms. Kimberly Felong reported walking along the Trail and seeing **graffiti** on trees and some **signs down** between Solar Village and the cemetery. Ms. Tulloss also walks the Trail and wondered if we really needed signs to say that the puncheons might be slippery when wet, since we have plans to fix this problem soon. Problem could be town liability, so Mr. Ticktin added that the chances of winning a lawsuit are better, if warning has been given and ignored. Ms. Diane Lowrie added that there usually are no signs in State parks re puncheons. More later on this.

EC Mailings - The Post Office has *a service to put* notices in all residents' post boxes for a fee, and because some our issues are time sensitive, a motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and seconded by Ms. Sharyn Walz that the Environmental Commission allocate up to \$350 from their budget to use the Postal Service for up to five town mailings, if necessary. This was accepted unanimously.

ANJEC Training Workshop - Vice Chairperson mentioned that there are two ANJEC workshops coming up (**March 25 and April 1**). At a recent workshop that members Nick Murray and Kimberly Felong attended, Nick reported that he received the "Environmental Commissioner's Handbook" and "Protecting our Streams" which can be useful for our members. They also have many small materials that we can obtain/distribute at our 4th of July celebration.

Solar Village Project - No Report

Maps for Woodland Trails and Trail Head Kiosk - Ms. Diane Lowrie, Chief Naturalist for the New Jersey Park Service, was present this evening and brought us some Trails Folders to show us. She spoke to the Commission, told us that her Supervisor has commissioned her to create a map for our whole Trail area to be in brochure form. She showed us some maps and invited interested folks to become involved. The Park Service is interested in making a kiosk at the beginning of the Trail at Pine Drive (near the sewer plant). The kiosk is budgeted at about \$1,000 (to buy the materials) in the Trails Grant approved by the Borough. They are waiting on the grant to finance the brochures which will cost several thousand dollars. Her job is to work with the school on **Earth Day** (Thursday, April 20) and going with the students and teachers on the Trails. At Earth Day at the local school, the 6th grade will work on something positive for our community and Protecting Wildlife will be the theme. There will be a speaker and a workshop on awareness of plastic in the environment. There will be four workshops, hopefully a Trail walk; they are working on this. The school needs hands to help with the children in the school garden. Since the Environmental Commission is very active and supportive of the local school's Earth Day, Ms. Lowrie said it would help if she could get our \$200 contribution soon; she was informed that Anna (Treasurer) at the Borough can help her with the process. She asked for Commission support at Earth Day to help with the children.

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Beth Battel, this meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary