

C O R R E C T E D

September 27, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 7:05 P.M at the Borough Hall. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald presided and called the Roll.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bonna, Grunwald, Hartley, Murray, Felong (Alt-1), Ticktin (Alt-2)

Absent: Battel, Tulloss, Walz

Chairperson Eitan 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 Notices on the public bulletin boards 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. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Kim Felong that the minutes of July 19, 2017 be accepted. It was noted that on page 26 under Roll Call, Present, change "Bettel" to "Battel"; under Approval of Minutes, line 4, change "Mr. Murry" to "Mr. Murray"; under Report of Council Representative, line 2, change "Stacy" to "Stacey" and under Report of Committees & Projects, Invasive Species, line 2, change "butterflys" to "butterflies". On page 27, second paragraph, line 4 from bottom, change "Stacy" to "Stacey". Also under Stream Monitoring, lines 6, 7 & 8, change "vertebrae" to read "macro-invertebrates". And on page 29, under Old Business, Sustainable Jersey, last sentence omit, "all are approved for now!" These minutes were accepted unanimously with these corrections. Mr. Ticktin and Ms. Felong abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE/ OTHER: No correspondence.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Tim Hartley reported that they have not had another meeting, but there will be a meeting next week on October 3. The main purpose of this meeting will be to consider a proposal to amend the Master Plan to incorporate by reference the 2015 updated Environmental Resources Inventory for the Borough of Roosevelt and the 2017-21 Community Forestry Management Plan. Also updating incorporation of the Master Plan is one of the requirements for our **getting credit from Sustainable Jersey**. Paperwork was attached so that Planning Board members could view it. This passed the Planning Board. Mr. Hartley will forward this paperwork to the Environmental Commission. Our Chair Grunwald attended this meeting.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Nick Murray has been appointed to the Borough Council and now he is our representative to the Council. He reported that he will be getting some training for this new position. Mr. Ticktin explained that there is no position of "Council Representative" to this Board. The State Statute which governs this states that a position is saved for one person from the Planning Board and one from this Commission to be on the Council. Chair Grunwald added that this is a good thing to have someone attend to report back what is happening on the Council that may effect the Environmental Council. Mr. Murray reported no news at this time pertinent to this Commission.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:

Forest Management - Chair Grunwald reported that a **meeting** is scheduled for October 12 **with the Regional Superintendent for Fish and Wild Life Management Area** and also their Habitat Specialist. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss our Community Forest Management Plan and ways in which we may be able to coordinate priorities and activities with Assunpink. As you know, there is a significant amount of woodlands in Roosevelt that is on the property of the **Assunpink Wildlife Area**. We met before, found out that they do not have a Wildlife Forestry Plan, but they are very interested in what we are doing, our priorities and intentions, so they can help support it, if possible. They have some resources, equipment, staffing, finances, etc. In turn, it is their intention to eventually get their own Forest Management Plan. We are **hoping to support each other**. Attending that meeting as well will be Steve Taylor and Jill Lipoti, members of our Community Forest Management Plan Advisory Group. Mr. Michael Ticktin mentioned that of the five segments of the **Woodland Trail**, three of them are in the Assunpink. Will they be willing to maintain the Trail in the Roosevelt section? Chair Eitan said that they have been maintaining the Trail in their area. He and Nick have been walking the Trail and keeping an eye on it; and they have dealt promptly with problem trees on their property, but are not authorized to work on our property. This year there was need for a mid-summer trimming and it has been done. The part that is not in the Assunpink is maintained by our Borough Hall. **The Trail is in pretty good shape!** The Maintenance Contract is up for renewal. Chair Grunwald added that once we get "approved status" we are eligible for funding and more liability protection under the Shade Tree Act. For "approved status" we also need two people (one Borough employee or elected official and one member of the community) to go through a one-day **training** which is on October 19. The **first year is core training**; the **second year** we need people to attend **other training**. This expenditure has been approved by the Borough Council. Chair Grunwald said the last thing we need to do to get "approved status" is to file a Year End Report of what we accomplished in 2017. Also funding for the grant application for 2018 has a deadline of March or April 2018. Chair Grunwald added that there are also continuing training requirements later.

Invasive Species - Mr. Steven Taylor reported that Ms. Maureen Clark has been diligent in cleaning up some of the beds on Spruce Street. It was noted that some of our large **milkweed** plants disappeared, but we have some more milkweeds to plant this fall along with some other plants. Most of the plants have survived except Black Eye Susans. Deer ate them all up! Chair Grunwald mentioned that the Environmental Commission at the August 14 meeting of the Borough Council recommended to them a **Mitigation Policy for the Planting of Invasive Species** drafted by Mr. Steven Taylor which was adopted that evening. [See July Minutes]

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss was out of town at this time, but Ms. Stacey Bonna reported that they bought some **rubber duckies** that can be put in the water, float and can be timed to show the speed of the water. Chair Grunwald mentioned that he and Ms. Tulloss talked about a fall monitoring with our new Ambassador in attendance. They will try for an early October date.

Trail Update - Mr. Nicholas Murray reported that the deer *exclosure* that he put up is holding. Also the puncheons are doing well. Later he will be working with Ms. Diane Lowrie; she has been in Scotland. Chair Grunwald said that he would check further into the Eagle Scout Kiosk Project. Mr. Tim Hartley met with Mr. Nick Murray to look at the **little bridge crossing** on this side of Rochdale, as there were **some concerns** about it. Mr. Hartley did some sketches about what could be done there without “fancy” materials, checked if it is stable and wide enough, noted there are height differences between the two sides, so perhaps it could be extended, maybe make steps, etc. Mr. Hartley suggested working in stages, getting it leveled and extended first. Chair Grunwald asked if he meant adding onto the existing structure or making a new one, just longer? Mr. Hartley explained add to it first, as there is also that height difference between the two sides as well. If we extend it, we get from the Rochdale Street side back into the woods, it’s going to be a step or two down. Some of the logs out there might function as steps. When it is dry, it is not such an issue. Chair Grunwald reminded the Commission that we have \$2,400 left. We have approved up to \$1,500 for the kiosk. First is the **Eagle Scout kiosk** project and they will do fund raising. Then Assunpink said they would be willing to put up a **second kiosk** for us near our cemetery (Eleanor Lane), but on their property. If we pay for the materials, they will do the labor. If we do not **spend the money** and have the **job completed** by the **end of May 2018**, we will **lose it**. If we spend on the kiosk, we would still have money left (\$700-\$800), could purchase a chain saw (about \$800), and revisit purchasing a shed (not a priority, but budgeted).

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Sustainable Jersey - Chairperson Grunwald reported that we **submitted our updated Application** and all now completed but two outstanding items, neither of which originated with the Environmental Commission. One has to do with adding a means on the Borough website for people to be able to sign up for the e-mail list to submit about Borough Council Meetings. The Council is aware of this. The other is the Prescription Drug Disposal Program; our Sharyn Walz volunteered to get this organized, so we become sponsor. We are waiting for the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office to let us know a date when they can have an officer available for the collection of the disposed drugs here in Roosevelt. Nothing is finalized yet. Mr. Michael Ticktin called for a **motion that the Environmental Commission sponsor the Prescription Drug Disposal Program Event in conjunction with the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Department**. This was seconded by Ms. Stacey Bonna and accepted unanimously by this Commission. Chair Grunwald asked **Mr. Nick Murray to bring this before the Borough Council**, as this must come from our Municipal Office. The Acting Mayor is aware of this and will have the clerk follow through, so we can get a date from the Sheriff’s Office.

ANJEC Environmental Congress - Ms. Mary Tulloss, member of this Commission, will attend and represent our Environmental Commission at this Congress. She has gone in the past; other members are invited to attend. Motion was made by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna to reimburse Ms. Tulloss the \$65 fee to attend and represent us. Some of their training is free; this one has a charge. This was unanimously accepted by this Commission.

Borough Hall Butterfly Garden Maintenance - This garden is right in front of the Borough Hall, has plantings to attract Monarch butterflies. Member Stacey Bonna has been checking the site, found a young Monarch butterfly by some milkweed there, saved it. She said we need more milkweed. She is willing to help with this garden, but would like a schedule to be more organized in maintaining the plants. Mr. Steve Taylor will set up 2018 work schedules for this little garden and the garden on Spruce Lane. He has volunteered to work on this Borough Hall garden for 2018, as he lives nearby. We need more volunteers.

Other - Some older Environmental booklets were found in the Borough Hall, nicely done, quite a few. It was suggested that we let the local school distribute most of them, also have some in the Borough Hall for pick-up.

PUBLIC:

Ms. Rainey Hartley, 29 Farm Lane, said she had read an article with a picture that really "grabbed" her. It was a picture of a praying mantis that had a bird, tearing out its brain—very violent! It is said they don't kill as many birds as feral cats, but it is still violent..... And with this we adjourn!

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna, this meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Attest:


Ann M. Kassahun