

October 18, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2017 at 7:02 P.M at the Borough Hall. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald presided and called the Roll.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Hartley

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 Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Kim Felong that the minutes of September 27, 2017 be accepted. It was noted that on page 31. under Trail Update, line 1, change "enclosure" to read "exclosure". These minutes were accepted unanimously with this correction. Abstentions were Ms. Beth Battel, Ms. MaryTulloss, and Ms. Sharyn Walz.

CORRESPONDENCE/ OTHER: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Hartley was not present this evening, but Chairperson Grunwald and Mr. Michael Ticktin attended the Planning Board meeting held Tuesday, October 3. Chair Grunwald reported that the business that pertained to the Environmental Commission was that the Planning Board has officially adopted by Resolution for the incorporation of our **2015 Environmental Resources Inventory** into the Borough's Master Plan which is one of the requirements of **Sustainable Jersey**. It means when the Planning Board has to make decisions, they will take into account the information that has been provided by the Inventory. It is a supplement to, not a substitute for, the original 1995 Natural Resources Inventory, which is already incorporated into the Master Plan. Also incorporated was the **2017-2021 Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)** into the Master Plan, which is not a requirement of Sustainable Jersey. However, it will help informed decision-making. On motion and second, Roll Call Vote was **unanimous** as follows: Malkin, Hartley, LeCompte, Ord, Taylor, Connor, Kassahun, McNally.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Nick Murray reported that the Borough Council approved the **new websight** to be built; it will be up within one month. Chair Grunwald explained further that this is needed per **Sustainable Jersey's requirement** that a municipality have sign-up access for residents for Borough Council meetings or any other important announcements. Our Commission brought it to the attention of the Council that this needed to be done for certification. Mr. Murray received a communication from the Borough Clerk with a copy of a New Jersey State Assembly Resolution stating that they encourage New Jersey homeowners to plant **native plants** which is very beneficial. Mr. Steve Taylor asked if there would be a link (URL) from the previous website? Comment was there were problems with the old website. Mr. Mary Tulloss asked if the Budget is on the old website? She thought it was a State requirement. She is attending the meeting tomorrow night, will bring it up there. We need more information on this which may go out on the Borough website.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:

Forest Management - Chair Eitan Grunwald reported that he attended a **meeting** held this past Thursday, October 12, with representatives from the **Assunpink Wildlife Management Area**. In attendance was their Regional Superintendent, Mr. T. Winkler, and Ms. M. Warner, who is their Habitat Management Specialist. Also attending from Roosevelt were Steve Taylor and Jill Lipoti of our Forest Planning Management Advisory Group. The purpose of the meeting was to **share information and explore opportunities for coordination** with each other. **We felt the highest priority** for forest management planning was about **fires** caused by fuel on the forest floor. This showed up in our Environmental Resources Inventory. Actually **Assunpink did not think wildfires a high risk**, because of the type of forest trees in this area. We may find out more later when we do a fuel analysis and tree inventory study. **Assunpink regards Invasive species high priority** and so do we. The Assunpink group recommended our checking into services from the **New Jersey Strike Force**. They will come out and **do an assessment for a fee**, get some idea of **our situation, and what we should do**, etc. We would share this information with Assunpink. Assunpink will work with us. Ms. Jill Lipoti mentioned Fragmites at the West end of the Trail. It was brought out that where invasive species are dominating, it is difficult to change; easier to control where they are just starting!

Chair Grunwald and Member Nick Murray will attend **core training** tomorrow, October 19. In order for Roosevelt to be illegible to apply for grants next year to implement the Forest Plan, we have to have "approved status". There are **three (3) things to be approved**. **(1)** We need to have a Community Forest Management Plan that is approved by the New Jersey State Forester, which we have done. This was the "big" one! **(2)** We have to file an **Annual Report** every year to describe what was in the Plan and what was accomplished. Since our Plan begins in 2017, we owe them a Report by February 2018. And **(3)** we have to meet certain Training Requirements. We need two people (one Borough employee or elected official and one member of the community) to go through a one-day **training** on October 19. Chair Grunwald and Nick Murray will take this training. The **first year is core training** which is an introductory training

into basics of Community Forest Management, trees, and the basics of the New Jersey Shade Tree Act. Roosevelt needs to **keep two people with this training**; so if one cannot continue, like Chair Grunwald and Family will be moving early in 2018, someone else will have to take this training. Nick is on the Council now, but Election is in November. If Nick is not re-elected, another person will have to be trained for that position too. So we will need to train more folks quickly. The **second year** we need people to attend **other training**.

Ms. Mary Tulloss asked if there can be a calendar for the coming year that guides the Commission through all these changes, etc. Chair Grunwald will touch on this later this evening to help manage the coming transition.

Invasive Species – Ms. Sharon Walz reported that there will be planting on November 5 at 10 A.M. Members/friends should come to the “Butterfly Park” and help.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss explained that she was out of town for three weeks. They had hoped to do another monitoring the first week of November, but Chair Grunwald will be out of town. It is getting late in the year, so this will be **planned for the Spring**. She did walk near the monitoring site and noticed some type of invasive plants. She would like the Invasive Species Committee to also check plants near the new puncheon. Ms. Tulloss said she will be in touch with Mr. Steve Taylor. Chair Grunwald mentioned that there is to be some organization of equipment at the Borough Hall and we have the Stream Monitoring equipment there; so be aware there will be some communication regarding **storing our equipment**.

Trail Update - Mr. Nicholas Murray reported that he received an e-mail from our Chair from a new resident interested in helping out with Trail maintenance. Chair Grunwald will be meeting with this new person next week. Mr. Murray mentioned that under New Business, we will be talking about the Woodland Trail Memorial Fund. Ms. Beth Battel mentioned that perhaps we can use a chainsaw; but need a qualified person. Chair Grunwald added that we have about \$2,200 left from our **Trail Budget** that has to be spent for materials and equipment (chainsaw) by May 2018. If it doesn't get spent, it goes back to the State of New Jersey. Chair Grunwald explained we are waiting for information about the design of the **first Trail Kiosk** being built by the Eagle Scout for a **materials list** with the costs so we can do a budget and also a revision request to apply money from our **Recreational Trust Grant** to use to build a **second Kiosk** (near our cemetery).

Ms. Robin Filepp spoke regarding the **Woodland Trail Memorial Fund** she started after her husband, **Ron Filepp**, died recently riding his bike. She said Ron went out on the Trail on his own for years and maintained it with his own equipment. He helped injured animals. He was a very private soul and he loved the Trail. Ms. Filepp thought of a way to remember him, so made up the title, Woodland Trail Memorial Fund, and it came into being. It was set up with the town as a “line item” so that when the money came in, it was recorded, and notes were sent to people who donated. She met our Nick Murray, another passionate man of the Trail, who told her some of the money was used for markers on the Trail. She and neighbors also had a yard sale that raised about \$500. She would like a subcommittee/group of people to talk about handling the money and having a day set aside to remember Ron. This money could be used for something

we are not covered for. She wanted us to know that **part of this tragedy was a criminal act**; the woman who hit Ron left the scene -- so it was **hit and run**. She is serving a year in jail, four years of probation, and also has to **pay restitution**. Robin went through a Plea Agreement and had to write up the funeral expenses/flowers as part of the sentence. When the woman gets out of jail, she will have to pay restitution until she pays **\$11,000 (\$600 a year)**. Robin would like to use this money to help the Trail, our town, and thus to remember Ron. She thanked the Commission for inviting her here this evening. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald thanked her for coming. He explained that people do not have to be on the Commission to help out; we have many volunteers, folks who care, a lot of ad hoc activity. He invited her to be involved. He mentioned upkeep of the Trail, interpretive map signs of the Trail, being on-line. He asked what she had in mind. She had in mind to insure that the Trail be kept up. Chair Eitan explained that there is a Borough contractor who mows/cleans up/trims our part twice a year; we are recommending a third time. Assunpink does its part. We contact Assunpink when we note a problem on their portion and they take care of it. For example, our folks take care of branches; but if a tree falls, the Borough contacts the tree service that we use. We have professional people on call. We also have extra citizens like Nick Murray who show up and help. Main care is written into the budget. Chair Grunwald explained that every year there is a National Trails Day and most communities have volunteers go out to trim and clean at that time.

Mr. Michael Ticktin stated that he felt it would be appropriate for the Environmental Commission to recommend to the Borough Council that the Trail be officially named the Ron Filepp Roosevelt Woodland Trail. Motion was made by Ms. Stacey Bonna that the **Roosevelt Woodland Trail be officially named the Rod Filepp Memorial Woodland Trail**. This was seconded by Ms. Beth Battel and accepted unanimously by this Commission. Chair Grunwald asked Mr. Nicholas Murray to convey this information to the Borough Council at their next meeting and to ask them to adopt it.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Sustainable Jersey - Chairperson Eitan Grunwald announced that **we have been awarded Bronz Certification** (everyone clapped). The Borough still needs to have the e-mail sign up on there; everything else is done. They have given us provisional approval knowing that we were planning to get it done, he feels they rushed it so that we could be included in the public Presentation of Certifications which is to be November 19 in Atlantic City. There is a luncheon if anyone wants to go from our Commission or the Council, but we are not required to attend.

ANJEC Environmental Congress - Ms. Mary Tulloss attended the **44th yearly Congress** which was held on Friday, October 13, at nearby Mercer Community College. The keynote speaker was Mayor Zimmer of Hoboken. They gave out a flash drive which had a copy of her presentation and informational templates for Resolutions, presentations about how Hoboken recovered from the "Sandy" flooding problems, and how they are never going to get flooded again, etc. Hoboken is a one square mile city of 53,000 people. They received a \$250,000 grant to

implement a plan for their city. They have water holding storage areas underground with parks on top, have big pumps to release the water, have a community Response Emergency Team of volunteers which checks/helps seniors. They see who doesn't have lighting, medication, etc. This might be of interest for Roosevelt now that we do not have a Fire Department. Hoboken has micro grid generators on platforms, shelters for people to go to, sessions on stormwater management, etc. They have a new rule that no apartment can be built on ground level. Ms. Tulloss has their information and some ideas for our Council. And extra information was given out, like plastic waste will outweigh fish in the oceans by 2050. At their afternoon session, she learned that the New Jersey Master Plan has not been updated for 20 years, but New Jersey is third in the nation on solar installation. At another session, they spoke about "decoupling"; it was brought out that it is not in the best interest of Utility Companies to have energy conservation. Maybe there is some way to compensate them. Re our town, Chair Grunwald commented before Roosevelt could do a stream restoration, an analysis would have to be done. We would have to know the inflow from the storm water system. We do not know where all the storm water basins or outflows are located; we need maps. There is a no recent map of all the storm water lines, only an outdated one from 1946.

OTHER:

There was some concern about Environmental Commission Chairman Eitan Grunwald moving in January 2018. He has been very active in many areas, especially Sustainable Jersey and the Roosevelt Community Forestry Management Plan which had detailed administrative work. Someone needs to do what he has been doing, or it's not going to get done. He will be out of town the last two weeks of December, and moving in January; so the best time to firm up the change is beginning now. He wants someone to be aware of conditions around the Community Forestry Management Plan. The Recreational Trails Grant must be closed out. Sustainable Jersey is almost done, needs someone to follow up. He assured members that he would do all he can to make the transition an easy one. We do not know who will replace him, but we will surely miss his guidance and wish him well in his new location.

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Kim Felong, this meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun