

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 16, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, **October 16, 2019**, at 7:04 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahun.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Dermody, Felong, Hartley, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Ashburner,
Silverman- Alt 1

Absent: Vacancy-Alt 2

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT:

To show that proper notice of this meeting has been given, Chairperson Michael Ticktin stated that the minutes indicate: "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by filing with the Borough Clerk, by posting on bulletin boards at the Roosevelt Borough Hall and Roosevelt Post Office, and by publication in the Times of Trenton and in the Asbury Park Press on **February 7, 2019.**"

WELCOME BY CHAIRPERSON: Chairperson Ticktin warmly welcomed Ms. Ellen Silverman, as the new Alternatne 1 to this Commission. Mr. Ashburner is now a Regular Member and Alternate 2 is presently vacant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairperson Ticktin stated that the Agenda will be amended under New Business to add Review and Comments on the proposed Tree Ordinance. It has had the First Reading at the Borough Council Meeting and is now scheduled for the Hearing and Second Reading on October 28. Motion was made by Mr. Nick Murray and seconded by Ms. Felong to approve this evening's Agenda without Amendments. This was unanimously accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Felong and seconded by Ms. Tulloss to make further improvements to the **August, 21, 2019 minutes** with the following corrections: **On page 23**, under **Sustainable Jersey**, change first sentence to *“Ms. Kim Felong reported that she did not get the notice into the Bulletin and now we are unsure if we could use the listing on the website to get credits.”* On end of page 23, take out “Folks Impact” so sentence should read “There is a *Health* Impact...” On page 24, line 2, change “Mr. Felong” to read “Ms. Felong” and on page 24 under **New Business**, change name “Ester Tsarkis” to read “**Esther Psarkis**”. These minutes were unanimously accepted with these corrections; abstaining were Messrs. Dermody, Murray, and Hartley.

Motion was made by Mr. Murray and second by Ms. Tulloss to approve the **September 18, 2019 minutes** as presented, no corrections. This was accepted unanimously. Ms. Felong abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: No Meeting.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:

Member Sam Ashburner reported that there will be more discussion on the Shade Tree Commission business; no on-going program, but a Hearing will be advertised for October 28. He felt that the biggest problem is enforcement, telling people what to do (or not do) on their property. Being small we could work with an Arborist or have the Planning Board overlook this function. Chair Ticktin added that we had a Shade Tree Commission in the Ordinance for a while; what they would have done was done by the Environmental Commission. Usually Shade Tree Commissions manage trees on Public Property. Mr. Ashburner will post the meeting for local folks to attend.

OTHER:

Chair Ticktin reminded members there will be a presentation at the Borough Hall on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and coffee and bagels on Sunday morning.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative - Ms. Heidi Monteleone resigned, opening for new Alternative-2 member. Please pass the word to get one more member.

Forest Management - Mr. Nick Murray informed us that we need 1 ½ to 2 more credits and one or two more people to take courses to fill vacancies left by recent shifting/loss of members having these kinds of certification. Please step up and help. Contact Nick or Chair Ticktin for more details. Member Nick Murray made a motion to release money (\$150) to pay for Luke Dermody's class. Second was Sam Ashburner. This was granted by unanimous vote. Also there is a fallen tree on the Rochdale/Tamara section of the Trail. Nick will use our chain saw; he has protective gear. Sam Ashburner will be with him. Nick reported that there are also a few big trees down on the way to the Cemetery. They are so large that DEP will work on this; they may even re-route the path around these trees. Chair Ticktin warned Nick to watch out for Poison Ivy.

Invasive Plant Species - Mr. Steve Taylor reported that Saturday and Sunday a team moved in the cemetery and by Empty Box Brook cleaning up. This weekend they will be working near Rochdale. Chair Ticktin mentioned getting some lighting near the small park near the Horse Farm.

Stream Monitoring, Etc. - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that she would like to do a workshop, but Volunteers are hard to get. The time for monitoring has past. She is hoping to meet with the Hightstown folks. She made a motion to reimburse the \$35 that she and Nick Murray used for the watershed project. Motion was made and seconded, unanimously accepted. Ana will be notified of monies to be released.

Sustainable Jersey - Ms. Kim Felong reported that she needs a third person working with her, but people are very busy. She asked if anyone could join her. Sam Ashburner said he can upload information. He can look up how many credits we have, etc. Chair Ticktin will keep in touch with them. We really need a third person. If folks are interested in a specific workable topic, Kim encourages them to follow through, keep her in the loop.

Ms. Mary Tulloss reported there is a \$2,000 grant due October 31 for schools to build 4 raised beds near the school and/or a fence for larger planting areas. We would work with the school principal. Anyone with information, please share it. Member Sam Ashburner will mail information to interested members. We may be able to get our information together quickly and apply for this.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Ticktin opened this discussion; the Council has information about a Tree Ordinance. Do we need a Tree Ordinance? Will it be a burden on our residents? The members discussed activities and problems associated with trees. It was noted there is no Zoning Board of

Adjustment because there are no zones. They discussed many things about trees, but the real question was do we need all this. It may be that we are historic, a greenbelt town, lots of trees appreciated by many residents. Many would like to find a way to not have destruction of the trees because we have not protected them, Trees have been living a long time here, some are in bad shape, grew up with the town, will not last much longer. If we keep all these trees, will be have more pick-up service, etc.? Many have strong feelings about trees, don't like the sound of the saw! And who will enforce the new Ordinance? The Council will be discussing all this. People will do what they want.! Trees do add to the beauty of our Roosevelt. Chair Ticktin asked if we can make some recommendations. What about the tree officer having qualifications? It was felt that we need a certified arborist. It was evident that our Members felt strongly about our trees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Felong and second by Mr. Hartley, this meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Ann M. Kassahun