

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 19, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 7:10 P.M. at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahun.

### ROLL CALL:

Present; Ashburner, Felong, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Silverman - Alt 1

Absent: Dermody, Hartley, Vacant – 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 notices published in the Times of Trenton and in the Asbury Park Press on January 24, 2020 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.”

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion was made by Ms. Tulloss and Second was made by Ms. Silverman. This passed by unanimous vote.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion and second were made to approve the minutes of **January 15, 2020** with the following corrections: On **page 3** under Sustainable Jersey, line 1, change “received” to “reviewed”; line 2, change “are” to read “were possible credits....”. Take out 5 lines “Schools....Philadelphia”. End with “,,we had 85 points in November.” **Page 4** under New Business should read: “Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that she noticed that some large branches have been dumped at the cemetery loop in the road. She reported this to the Borough Clerk.” *Other news is that “Some Environmental Organizations have given Gov. Murphy an “A” grade for Environmental Actions”*. Also tax credits for electric vehicles and a rebate for having a charging station at your property were passed. The Plastic Bags Bill passed one house, not both!

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Green Heritage from Monmouth Co. Park, arrived for interested members to borrow to read.

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON** - Mr. Tim Hartley, absent, no report.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON** - Mr. Luke Dermody, absent, no report.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

Administrative - Chair Ticktin reported we are awaiting the Mayor to appoint an Alternate 2.

Forest Management - Mr. Nick Murray reported he submitted our Annual Accomplishment Report for Community Forest Management which was received by the State and we have been credited by them. He is looking into other actions we can take to upgrade our status. He mentioned that we can do a tree inventory and Chair Ticktin added that the Council is looking into Tree Ordinances again. They have our comments and the Mayor is very interested in this. They are especially interested in trees near our power lines.

Invasive Plant Species - No Report

Stream Monitoring - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that she has heard from **Nik Hansen** of the **Watershed Institute** who would like to work with us. The **kit and training are free** with their program. He mentioned a few locations that they could zero in on and dates when the **CATS** (Chemical Action Team(s)) are active and we can join them also. Training is on hold until the weather is better. A site that might be good is where Rocky Brook crosses Disbrow Hill Road. Teams monitor once a month on the third weekend collecting data on Friday through Sunday morning between 10am and 12 Noon. There are several good sites we could monitor. Ms. Tulloss has checked some sites, can get close to the water, some nice houses not too far, a narrow bridge at one site kind of far. She can place information in the Borough Bulletin.

Sustainable Jersey - Ms. Felong reported that we have points between 95 and 115. The deadline is May. Currently she has 5 points pending on **Outreach**. We could get 10 points from the **Health Impact Assessment** provided we speak to someone on the Planning Board or on the Council to see if someone has a certain kind of Health Related Training, make a presentation to the Council and it would have to be recorded in their Minutes.

Another option might be to adopt a **Companion Animal Pledge**, needs to be officially adopted, a Leader to distribute the Pledge to the Planning Board, the Health Department and Animal Control. She passed this around for folks to check it. Note that they are very slow to work with groups trying to get points. Ms. Mary Tulloss added that we have won a \$2,000 grant dealing with the **School Garden** for our local children. The plan is for some of the children to present to this Commission what they are doing, what they expect to get from the garden, etc. They might want some of us to visit the garden. It was felt

that we should submit something soon. We need a leader for an animal control program. Board consists of nine people.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Bamboo Ordinance - Chairperson Ticktin explained how several residents have problems with bamboos growing on their properties and the Borough has some on municipal land also. This Commission was reviewing laws governing these trees to send their thoughts/recommendations to the Borough Council. Roots can go as deep as the Bamboo is high. Many are 30 feet high and more. They get dangerous as they get larger. There are some laws to help governing them, such as limit on time to remove problem trees. Ten days seems a short time to deal with removal; thirty days seems better. Pesticides should be used by licensed professionals. Chair Ticktin reports the recommendations of this Commission for the Bamboo Ordinance to help us deal with them in an efficient manner. On motion and second, this Commission unanimously voted to send its recommendations to the Borough Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, on motion by Mr. Murray and second by Ms. Felong, this meeting was ended unanimously at 8:05 P.M.

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Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary