

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 17, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNlhPYTZZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 325 186 5085

Password: 968068

One tap mobile +16465588656,,3251865085#,,#968068# US (New York)

+13126266799,,3251865085#,,#968068# US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 325 186 5085

Password: 968068

The Roll was called by Secretary Robin Tillou

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ashburner, Felong, Hamilton, Hartley, Murray, Ticktin, Silverman (arrived 7:06 PM)

Absent: Tulloss

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 on January 26, 2021 and in the Asbury Park Press on January 27, 2021 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public for the agenda. Seeing no public comment the public portion for the agenda was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion was made by Mr. Hartley to approve the agenda and second was made by Ms. Felong. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 20, 2021 – Motion was made by Ms. Felong to approve the January 20, 2021 meeting minutes and a second was made by Mr. Hartley. By unanimous vote the minutes were approved.

February 17, 2021 - Motion was made by Ms. Felong to approve the February 17, 2021 minutes with one revision and a second was made by Mr. Hartley. By unanimous vote the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIASON: Mr. Hartley reported the March 2, 2021 Planning Board meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be on April 6, 2021 and the

Board will be reviewing the amended stormwater management regulations ordinance to find consistent with the Master Plan.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIASON: Chairperson Ticktin reported a public hearing will be on April 19, 2021 for the amended stormwater management regulations ordinance.

Councilman Hamilton reported the Council discussed the flooding concerns that were discussed at the previous Environmental Commission meeting. The drains may need cleaning for preventative maintenance with street cleaning and it was suggested for the cleaning to become an annual maintenance to prevent flooding. There is a PDF version of the whole drainage system that was given by the Borough Engineer.

Councilman Hamilton reported the Borough will receive \$82,000 of COVID relief funding. The school will get funding as well to operate safely which is a federal plan to provide money to states and schools to help with the impact.

Chairperson Ticktin stated the Borough has cleaned out North Valley Road drains and inquired if that had already been done with the other storm drains.

Mr. Hamilton stated he will follow up with that inquiry. Mr. Hamilton will send Ms. Tillou the PDF file of the drainage system to forward to the Commission.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management – Vice Chairperson Murray reported the concern from the Council of the increase risk in forest fires due to the fallen trees. The solution could be to possibly remove the trees. Vice Chairperson Murray reached out to Peter Winkler of Assunpink WMA and he had stated that Assunpink does not remove trees, it is a natural occurrence and as long as it is not a catastrophic event they will not remove the trees. There is not an increase in forest fire from leaving the fallen trees in the forest. If we were to chip them up it may increase risk of forest fire from the fuel. Vice Chairperson Murray would like to know why Council raised this issue.

Councilman Hamilton stated they were discussing the concerns of the flooding and there was more flooding where the trees were down. There was a concern with the amount of wood in the green belt that could contribute.

Ms. Silverman stated the concern should be with the amount of trees down and not replacing them.

Steven Taylor stated Ronald Far, Forest of Etan, stated the main concern with forest fires is the Pine forests due to the resin in the trees and Roosevelt does not have that risk.

Vice Chairperson Murray stated residents blowing their leaves in the forest can also contribute. The Borough should have a town sponsored leaf pickup.

Councilman Hamilton stated the Council will look into that with the Environmental Commission's recommendation.

Vice Chairperson Murray stated the Borough could inquire with Lawrence amenities or East Windsor to use their trucks.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Murray for Council to pass a resolution for a town sponsored leaf pickup program and a second was offered by Ms. Silverman. By unanimous vote the Commission approved on the resolution from the Council.

Ms. Silverman reported on the trail material follow up. Home Depot is still standing by their statement to provide materials through their Home Depot Homer Fund grant which would be free for us. They are also offering free labor by their employees which they are still working on.

Chairperson Ticktin announced that Vice Chairperson Murray will be stepping down from Forest Management subcommittee and will be speaking with Commission Members who may be interested.

Invasive Plant Species – Mr. Taylor submitted an article on wine berries and invasive species for the April Borough Bulletin.

Chairperson Ticktin inquired on the recommendation on removing the white invasive species that have accumulated in town.

Mr. Taylor stated you can mow it and it will eventually go away. The basic approach is to catch them before they get out of control, but that species has been out of control for 50+ years. It will eventually die off if they are continually removed.

Sustainable Jersey - Ms. Silverman reported the bronze level luncheon was on March 11, 2021 and Mr. Ashburner and Ms. Felong was in attendance as well. Their current grant proposal will be due on June 9, 2021 and the energy related projects will not be included in this grant. The energy fellow program was mentioned if the Borough is interested as a municipality or a school. One of the advantages to this program is the replacement of more energy efficient lights.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding available grants.

Ms. Felong recommended having the Borough do an “adopt a storm drain” program and it would be their responsibility to maintain the drain.

Ms. Silverman agreed.

Ms. Felong and Ms. Silverman will work on the smaller action grant that has to be done by April 7, 2021.

Vice-Chairperson Murray motioned to authorize the Council to pass Ms. Silverman to make a submission to Sustainable Jersey on behalf of the Commission and Mr. Ashburner offered a second. By unanimous vote, the Commission approved the submission of the grant.

Ms. Felong has received requests for the Environmental Commission to have a Facebook page and she would like to create one and be the moderator.

Councilman Hamilton will advise the Mayor and Council and the Borough attorney and will follow up.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion of possible compost bins and distribution to residents interested.

Ms. Silverman reminded the Commission the Mayor would have to put out a Proclamation for next month regarding the Arbor Day planting of the tree.

Mr. Taylor stated he has a 3 ft. Bald Cypress, a 3 ft. Corn Bean and a 4 – 5 ft. Black Birch if needed to plant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public at 8:10 PM. Seeing no public comment Chairperson Ticktin closed the public forum at 8:10 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chairperson Murray motioned to adjourn and Ms. Felong offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Robin Tillou, Secretary