

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 21, 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, July 21, 2021 at 7:03 P.M. via Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNIhPYTZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>
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

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.”

The Roll was called by Chairperson Michael Ticktin

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Mike Hamilton, Nick Murray, Mike Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Kim Felong, Tim Hartley

ELECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SECRETARY: Motion was made by Ellen Silverman to nominate Kaitlyn Ippolito as the new Environmental Commission Secretary and a second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

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 Mike Hamilton to approve the agenda and second was made by Ellen Silverman. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 17, 2021 – Chairperson Ticktin made several corrections to the minutes. With corrections noted, a motion was made by Mike Hamilton to approve the March 17, 2021, minutes with a second from Ellen Silverman. Mary Tulloss abstained. The Minutes passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIASON: None.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIASON: See attachment for Mike Hamilton's report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative- Kaitlyn Ippolito was elected as Secretary of the Environmental Commission.

Forest Management- None.

Trails- Sam Ashburner reports that puncheons have been added to the Rochdale to North Valley trail. The North Valley section of the trail still needs work. Ellen Silverman and Sam Ashburner are going to evaluate on materials they have and what else will be needed to better plan future projects. Ellen Silverman explains that certain Trail Maintenance projects fall under New Construction and should be going through D.E.P. Ms. Silverman suggests that in the future to write up a maintenance plan. Ellen Silverman would like to be in communication with Carmela Roberts about the grants for the bike path and other things that are Sustainable Jersey with Safe Routes to School. Mike Hamilton will reach out to Carmela Roberts to connect with Ms. Silverman. Ellen Silverman also asked if Carmela Roberts has the study on the pervious surface, to which Mike Hamilton said he believes she does and is going to reach out and confirm.

Mary Tulloss and Ellen Silverman want the Water Shed Institute people to be invited to the next Environmental Commission meeting as they have studies on the pervious surfaces. Mike Ticktin will reach out and be sure they are invited. The Committee gets into a lengthy discussion on pervious surfaces. Ellen Silverman will send contact information for the people at The Watershed Institute to Mike Ticktin. Stephan Taylor said he did not like the report, he feels there were no feet on the ground to see if the surface was impermeable. Ellen Silverman feels it was a steppingstone in the right direction.

Sam Ashburner made a motion to purchase a tarp for \$61 to cover the wood at the Borough Hall. Pending information if there is room available to store the wood indoors in one of the bays at the auxiliary building, Ellen Silverman second the motion. This passed by unanimous vote.

Mike Hamilton asked Sam Ashburner if there is a lot of silting between Tamara Dr and Rochdale. Mr. Ashburner confirms there is often debris blocking the stream and the best solution will be to manually remove obstructions. Ellen Silverman asks Mike Ticktin that when he reaches out to the Water Shed Institute to inform them this is an issue, and would like someone to come out and consult with Roosevelt Borough. The committee continues to discuss the wetlands and the water levels and whether it falls under D.E.P.

Invasive Plant Species – Stephan Taylor reported that Ellen Silverman is leading the charge on clearing the towpath on North Valley Rd. Volunteers have put in 52 hours of volunteer work.

Stream Monitoring- Mary Tullos stated that they will begin a Chemical Analysis type of monitoring on the creek, Empty Box Brook. On July 31st Mary Tulloss and a group will attend a training session and receive the chemicals needed to analyze the health of the stream. The team will go out the third week of the month to do the monitoring.

Erin Stretz from the Watershed Institute said the stream changing its banks is normal.

Ms. Tulloss asked if the LEAP Grant could be utilized to see the aerial view of the creek to get a baseline idea of its changes. Mike Hamilton confirms it is a useful tool and Ellen Silverman adds it'll be useful to link the Tree Inventory and impervious surface.

Sustainable Jersey- Ellen Silverman confirms the Grant was received. Ms. Silverman would like to form a committee so they can begin to create a calendar including the events with the volunteering opportunities, public education and develop other programs.

There should be an Environmental Commission table at the Labor Day celebration to provide information. Stephan Taylor would like to give away milkweed seeds or cardinal flower seed. Ellen would like to give out information on recycling from the Recycle Coordinator. Stephan Taylor has his information and will provide it to Ellen Silverman. Mary Tullos suggested a recycling game to see if people know what is recyclable. Mike Ticktin would like to work with Ellen Silverman on the committee. Ellen Silverman is going to reach out to Kim Felong and see if she will be interested. Kim and Ellen would like to start a Facebook page related to the environment in Roosevelt. It was determined that a Facebook Page should be used as individuals instead of as a community. Mary Tulloss talked about Sustainable Jersey Schools grant for \$2,000. Ms. Tulloss would like to know if Stephan Taylor has information on the garden expansion/ weeding and who is maintaining it. As of now the Summer School is weeding, gardening, and harvesting the garden until August. There have been arrangements made to have families take over the duties until school starts in the fall. From there, the third-grade class will maintain it. Ellen Silverman and Sam Ashburner offer to volunteer in the school garden.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Regarding the Tree Inventory and Hazardous Tree Grant the D.E.P only needs a letter of support to put the application in for the grant, if the grant is accepted then a resolution will be needed by Council. The determination if the grant is accepted will be by late August early September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public.

Mike Hamilton has seen the Spotted Lantern Flies. Ellen Silverman sent out information that the Black Walnut and Tree of Heaven are where the spotted lantern flies will likely be according to Rutgers University. Ms. Silverman has sent out the statement from Rutgers to the Facebook page on how to identify those trees. The committee had a lengthy conversation on the spotted lantern fly and how other towns are trying to mitigate the issue. The committee suggested Stephen Taylor to put out another article on the spotted lantern fly. Mr. Taylor suggested that a soapy water spray can be used to combat the issue. Mary Tulloss mentioned on Route 571 the power company left large cables on the side of the road and it should be removed. Mike Hamilton is going to reach out to Ana from the Borough Hall and see if she can be in touch with the power company to have them remove the cables but also tighten the loose ones before hurricane season.

Mary Tulloss also would like to know who the litter pickup coordinator is, and Mike Hamilton stated he will investigate it and get back with the information.

Chairperson Ticktin closed the public forum.

ADJOURNMENT: Sam Ashburner motioned to adjourn Mary Tulloss offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:23 P.M.

Kaitlyn Ippolito, Secretary