

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNlhPYTZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>

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

### **SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED MEMBERS: Kim Felong and Tim Hartley**

**ROLL CALL: Ashburner, Felong, Hamilton, Hartley, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Silverman (Alt. 1)**

**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 Mary Tulloss to approve the agenda and second was made by Ellen Silverman. This passed by unanimous vote.

### **SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED MEMBER: Nick Murray**

**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Motion** was made by Kim Felong to nominate Nick Murray as Vice-Chairperson and second was made by Mary Tulloss. This passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022 AND JANUARY 2023: February 16, 2022; March 16, 2022; April 20, 2022; May 18, 2022; June 15, 2022; July 20, 2022; August 17, 2022; September 21, 2022; October 19, 2022; November 16, 2022; December 21, 2022; January 18, 2023.** This passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Everyone received ANJEC report and information about upcoming seminar.

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:** Tim Hartley states there was a meeting this month with two action items. First one was a variance application for property on 19 South Rochdale, it was tabled till March – a few issues that will be looked into. Also, the Planning Board attorney could not be at the February meeting so it had to be pushed to the March meeting. The second was an application from T-

Mobile more equipment at the water tower – that application was moved pending final review by the Planning Board Engineer.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Mike Ticktin reports one two items: 1 - Municipal Attorney is preparing a resolution in support of the Adopt-A-Drain program. 2 - Tom Curry states that he has seen the proposed work on School Lane, next to his property, he is questioning the curbing, it will require the removal of some of the vegetation that he and Kevin McNally have planted. The Watershed Institute talked about the street design it should encourage having the water disperse into the adjoining land and lawns. Ellen Silverman states that the channeling from the stormwater cuts deep into the woods. If you have curbs it will make it worse. C/Hamilton states it is presently with the Borough Engineer. Mike Ticktin asks if anyone would like to make a motion to put on the record that the Environmental Commission is calling for a careful re-examination of the project in light of the need to prevent channeling of stormwater, Mary Tulloss make the motion and adds it is environmentally best practice not to put curbs but to have swales or a place water can go into a pervious coverage, and a second was made by Ellen Silverman. C/Hamilton would like to add that actually it would be better not to have curbs and sidewalk on that side of the street, when the kids walk home from school it is better to have them on just one side of the street, not crossing the street, once you get to Pine Drive, where the crossing guard is it's much safer to direct the pedestrian traffic from one corner. Council is looking at it and Carmella is looking at what options we have. This passed by unanimous vote.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Administrative:** Mike Ticktin reports that the mayor did re-appoint our 3 members and Dave Teich as the Alt. 2 member.

**Forest Management:** Kim Felong reports that Ellen Silverman submitted volunteer work hours for her, Steve and Ben Johnson, they did some more mulch along the trail and Mike Ticktin submitted his webinar – so that added another point. Annual report will need to be done next month.

**Invasive Plant Species:** Nothing to report.

**Stream Monitoring:** Mary Tulloss reports we now have 3 trained, by the Watershed Institute, stream monitoring people now, Corkey, Jane and I. Corkey and Jane have done the monitoring in December and January when it was really, really cold and this past weekend. Jane wrote a great article and submitted to the bulletin so we will have more attention on stream monitoring. She is also reporting our data collection. Ellen Silverman asks if she would put a little blurb on the Friends of the Environmental Commission Facebook page. Mary Tulloss will ask her to forward it to either or both Kim Felong or Ellen Silverman for posting. Tim Hartley asks under stream monitoring would the installation of the stream level gages be a logical place to tuck in there instead of under old business. Tim Hartley reports that our mini sub-committee of myself, Nick and Sam have gotten as far as agreeing on the type of gage that we are going to install. Maybe when the weather gets warmer, we can get them put in place.

**Sustainable Jersey:** Ellen Silverman states that she needs to sit down and look through and find out what changes have been made. We need to meet on the Sustainable Jersey Grant we have. Several actions need to be done. Last year ordered trees through NJ Forest Tree, was on the site this week, all but Pine trees have been sold out. Steve does a Pine make sense? White Pine and one other Pine – Ellen will look into it. Steve – Pines are big trees, unless replacing a tree that have died. Ellen said there are still 3 shrubs remaining. They probable didn't plant as much due to Covid. We gave out whatever we ordered last year.

**Trails:** Ellen Silverman reports Ben Johnson put in another 3 hours of volunteering, added more mulch on the bike path. On the trail between the sewage treatment and Tamara and how bad that is, and a suggestion that mulch would help in that area. I will call the tree guy and see if he can deliver mulch and thinking the best place for the delivery might be by the water treatment place. Sam Ashburner states if we had it delivered there, we would need the wheel barrow over old puncheons and that will be extremely tuff and also because that is Assunpink property, we would need 2 separate permits to do that kind of work. Sam has a copy of the special permit and will forward to Ellen. Kim Felong states that last time she applied for a permit the fee was \$25. **Motion** was made by Kim Felong to appropriate the \$25 for the permit and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

Ellen Silverman states while they were out mulching the bike trail, they came across a whole new trail between the bike trail and someone property on Tamara, it's a lovely trail it's not an authorized trail. I'd like to find out who did it and put them on the trail committee. It's the bike trail between Pine and school. Sam Ashburner asks is there a liability issue and Kim Felong or does it set a precedent if we let this slide and how many trails can we have, it's not authorized. Mike Ticktin states that maybe the borough council needs to discuss this. Steve Taylor – asks can it connect to the bike trail to someone's backyard can it connect to the trail on Tamara. Mary Tulloss said there were homeowners on Lake Drive that in the past put in a trail from their house to County Route 571, and they get into some serious trouble. Sam Ashburner states that if we approach them and framed it in a way that we like what you did but not in the right way and we have a job for you, if you enjoy doing this kind of thing, they might reply in a positive way. Instead of coming down with a hammer and condemning what they did. C/Hamilton states he would like to bring this up for discussion at the Council meeting, some of my concerns are that other people who are coming from the school and live down Tamara will use that trail to cross private property, it can become a trespassing issue. Ellen Silverman states she suspects that the homeowner has graciously allowed anyone of those children to go through. C/Hamilton you never know who the next homeowner will be. Tim Hartley says if you look at some of the old photographs of Roosevelt between Fam Lane and Homestead, there were a lot of crisscross trails between the original houses but one nice trail is not going to bother anyone but how do we move forward when others want to make their own trails. It's something we need to give some thought to. Sam Ashburner states that he has an email from Pete Winkler with a link to the special use permit and that they will waive the fee if we are working to improve the trail system and will forward the email to Ellen.

Dave Teich has 3 brief things, one I'm very interested in helping with the trail maintenance, I'd like to get some history maybe one of the members I can speak to and ask some questions, and the third I was on what I call the boardwalk between Tamara and Rochdale and stepped on one edge of a board that flipped up, I removed it completely and was going to go back and fix, so just wanted to advise. Ellen Silverman I'd love to work on this with you, we will email to get together.

C/Hamilton everyone is aware of homeowners cutting down trees without a permit we did pass an ordinance some time ago, homeowners have been ignoring it, looking for advise on ways we may be able to address the issue. Maybe some outreach campaign and educate the people on the value of the trees, especially to the eco-system. Maybe we can do through Sustainable Jersey. Ellen Silverman states outreach is part of Sustainable Jersey. When you have a law about taking down trees you have to make sure it has teeth. C/Hamilton states the problem is we don't have someone in town who can run over there the minute we find out someone is cutting down a tree, by the time we can send someone it's too late and we are fining them. Mike Ticktin states you have to demonstrate to them that it's in their best interest. Dave Teich what do you do to educate people, I didn't know you couldn't cut down trees without a permit. C/Hamilton states we are considering putting up signs in key locations in town. It will also help contractors who come into town, they will know they have to get permits. There's also a

concern of us being a town with all these signs. Ellen Silverman suggests we put a notice in the water bills or something else that goes out frequently from the borough. Mary Tulloss the borough of the New Year's flyer, you did say that permits are needed to take down trees. How about if you take a tree down you need to replace with 4 new trees. Sam Ashburner have them do community service on the trails. Mike Ticktin it would be up to the Judge to say community service; it would have to be part of the penalty imposed by the court. Sam Ashburner a couple suggestions that I have are, put on the bulletin board at the post office, willing to look into the value of trees and do an article on it. C/Hamilton if we continue to think about it and we approach with different angles we may reach more people. Another thing the Council is doing we are providing a packet to new homeowners as soon as we get the CO, we have information on the address, as part of the packet is something about the tree ordinance. It's hard to tell if it's new homeowners that are taking down trees. Steve Taylor states that all those trees planted years ago were planted in the wrong place.

Ellen Silverman as does everyone else welcomes Dave to the Environmental Commission.

Mary Tulloss asks if we have checked with other towns, like Hightstown, to see what they have in their tree ordinance. C/Hamilton states that in Princeton, contractors need to register with the town and given a copy of their tree ordinance prior to taking down any trees. They can also fine the contractors.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Tim Hartley motioned to adjourn Nick Murray offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary