

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 16, 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, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 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 and the Asbury Park Press on February 11, 2022 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, Nick Murray, Mike Ticktin, Mary Tulloss (arrived at 7:10pm), Ellen Silverman, David Teich

Absent: Kim Felong, Mike Hamilton, Tim Hartley

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 Nick Murray to approve the agenda and second was made by David Teich. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 16, 2022 – David Teich made a motion to approve the February 16, 2022, minutes with a second from Nick Murray. Sam Ashburner abstained. The Minutes passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PRESENTATION BY KENDRA MCKOY OF THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE CONCERNING MANAGEMENT OF ASSUNPINK CREEK –

Kendra is the Delaware River advocate for the Watershed Institute. The goal of her position is to help communities along the Delaware River connect better with their waterways, whether it's the River itself or creeks that lead up to it. One of the main goals for the Watershed Institute as a whole is to focus on the Assunpink corridor for this year and next and probably the next. A

couple of the initiatives the Watershed Institute is starting, that hopefully we can get Roosevelt involved in: See Attachment A.

Looking for contacts and connections in Roosevelt.

- Stakeholders that are interested in attending roundtables.

Ellen Silverman states she would be interested, you are probably aware of this, Roosevelt did an impervious study. Ellen would also be interested in knowing my contacts in Millstone and in the other areas. Kendra states she was hired during Covid and would like to start getting out there and meet with others. Mary Tulloss states she can be added to the roundtable, we have a team of three people here in Roosevelt who have been trained by the Watershed Institute to do the chemical action team and we have been gathering data on Empty Box Brook which empties into the Assunpink Creek, for about six months now.

Kendra asks if anyone has any historical contacts about the Assunpink or environmental issues that would be helpful, it's been surprisingly hard to find any historical information about the Assunpink, besides Trenton Industry and the Battle of the Assunpink. Ellen Silverman states we will have to look into that however, we do have a natural resource report that has some really good information about the wetlands and various things that may help you with your water story. Michael Ticktin states another thing that is interesting is if you look at a map of the town before the development was built in the 1930s it shows a north branch of the Assunpink. If you drove in from the north just before Borough Hall it starts going up again, there's a stream that goes through that stream now flows and meets the Assunpink around the sewer plant, which is the far west of Roosevelt and before it actually flowed into what was called north branch of Assunpink, before the Assunpink merged with what was called the North Branch of Empty Box Brook. Michael will look for documentation that shows how it was before the construction. There's a map in the fiftieth anniversary book, I got at the time from the State library. Mary Tulloss asks Kendra if she is interested in a pictorial of plants and animals found in the territory of Roosevelt? Kendra says yes, please. Mary will email it to Kendra. Kendra states you will probably hear from me again in April. The commission thanks Kendra for attending the meeting.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: None

Forest Management: (Nick Murray reports for Kim Felong)

CORE training has commenced. Kim reached out to Bob Atwood to confirm his attendance. He has not gotten back to me but she trusts he is taking the course. Upon completion, Kim will submit his certification to Emily Farschon.

Kim reached out to Emily to find out when we will hear about our NJUCF certification and she told me we should hear soon... So no news.

Arbor Day is April 29. A proclamation needs to be made as well as a tree planting. Can someone help with that?

We still need 7 CEU's for forestry between 2 people. Michael has already completed 1. Thank you

We should think about becoming Tree City USA certified. It is part of our master plan. There are 4 easy requirements.

1. Form a tree board
2. Have a tree care ordinance in place –complete
3. Have a community forestry budget that is \$2.00 per capita minimum. (\$1,616.00)
4. Observe Arbor Day and have a proclamation

Here are the reasons to be certified (Per tree city USA)

- It is part of our NJUCF plan
- We will get a sign which will boost our public perception
- Helps to encourage civic pride
- Gives recognition to all who have worked hard to protect our trees
- May be a bargaining chip for future grants
- It helps the trees which reduce dust particles and gas emissions, lowers energy consumption, captures storm water runoff, cools homes, parking lots and public spaces, reduces the occurrence of skin cancer.

Trails: None

Invasive Plant Species: None

Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss said that the stream monitoring would take place the coming week end. She also said that she would be picking up additional chemicals at the Watershed Institute on Saturday, and attending the celebration of World Water Day. The Institute has planned many activities for families at the celebration.

Sustainable Jersey:

OLD BUSINESS: Storm Drains

Kim Felong did a town wide storm drain survey and counted 71 drains. This number differs from Carmela Robert's number of 63. Kim sent everyone the spreadsheet she made that indicated the street name and the closest house/building number to the drain. Eventually, Kim would like to add the GIS coordinates so that we can add them to the official Adopt-a-drain map and website. It's a lot of work so that will be for another time. In the meantime, Kim would like to make a pledge to mail out to residents and ask that they volunteer to adopt a drain close to their home and care for it. Kim would like her spreadsheet to be uploaded to the Borough website. If possible, Kim's goal is to list the streets, and have a dropdown menu with the house numbers closest to the drains. The pledge would ask for the person's name, address and signature, and instruct them to go to the website to select a drain and indicate that on their form. Kim was hoping to have the pledge finished by this meeting but she wasn't able to get it done, she will be working on it this month. The drains in the worst shape were on Pine by the Tamara triangle,

down at the end of Pine, on the corner of Lake and 571 (the worst) and the one on the corner of Solar village and the woods. Bill and Kim cleaned them all while we were taking our survey.

Vote on spending \$130.00 (rounded) for PPE

Kim spoke with Ana and she will make the purchase.

Shopping list is:

Safety glasses 6 pairs @ 8.27/each

Hi-Vis vests 4 @ \$9.97/each

Work gloves: 4 pair @ \$9.97 each

If the group feels that there should be more or less of any of these items let her know and she can adjust the price. Kim will submit the list to Ana tomorrow.

Nick Murray made a motion to approve the spending of \$130 for PPE, with a second from Sam Ashburner. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kendra McKoy stated that World Water Day is this Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 10:00AM – 2:30PM and that there are still openings available.

Chairperson Tickin closed the public forum.

ADJOURNMENT: Mary Tulloss motioned to adjourn Nick Murray offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:40 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Joining Together to Protect The Assunpink Creek for All Communities

Kendra McKoy
Delaware River Advocate
The Watershed Institute
March 16th, 2022



Assunpink Water Story Documentary

- 8-12 minutes publicly available
- Tentative Release date: September 24, 2022
- Goal: To highlight the projects and problems along the Assunpink as a means to educate community leaders and individuals about their environmental connection to both upstream and downstream communities

Assunpink Round Table

Date: Saturday September 24th, 2022

Location: The Commons at the Social Profit Center at 1 N Johnston Ave,
Hamilton Township, NJ 08609

Goal: To foster concrete collaboration between the municipalities in the Assunpink Creek corridor to address community identified environmental issues.

Roundtable Tentative Objectives

1. Present the Assunpink Water Story Documentary produced by The Watershed Institute
2. Present overview of the state of the Assunpink in terms of ecological health, surface water quality and stormwater flooding.
3. Highlight major initiatives and projects addressing these issues through presentations from partner organizations or stakeholders on the current status and relevant obstacles to higher impact on Assunpink Creek health.
4. Hold brainstorming session for cross municipality initiatives to address previously identified Assunpink issues
5. Create project committees to execute initiatives identified in brainstorming session

2023-2024 Assunpink Goals

- Establish the Assunpink Roundtable as an annual event
- Generate Assunpink Summary Report on projects and projected impacts of initiatives completed or underway by Assunpink Roundtable participants
- Continue to release short Assunpink Vignettes to highlight specific local projects