

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 20, 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: Kim Felong, Mike Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Nick Murray (arrives at 7:05pm),
Mike Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, David Teich

Absent: Sam Ashburner

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 19, 2022 – Mary Tulloss made a motion to approve the January 19, 2022, minutes with a second from Dave Teich. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 16, 2022 – Dave Teich made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022, minutes with a second from Mary Tulloss. Kim Felong abstained. The Minutes passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Harley reports on the Planning Board meeting of April 12, 2022:

- Passed a resolution approving the proposed construction on S. Rochdale
- Discussed the Fair Share Housing Study – already in compliance

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Mike Hamilton reports on the Borough Council meeting of April 18, 2022:

- The Mayor Malkin reads into the record and the Borough Council approved an Arbor Day Proclamation – it's part of the Tree City Certification.
- Two Bond Ordinance were passed on the Tamara Drive Road Project
- Voted to send the Flood Damage Ordinance to the DEP
- Voted to have a branch pickup on May 23, 2022
- Had a discussion over the past two meeting about cannabis cultivation in the farmland – at the last meeting we had a presentation. A benefit is tax revenue. A committee maybe formed to look at the pros and cons

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: None

Forest Management: Kim Felong reports:

- Although we have not received official documentation regarding the approval of our Community Forestry Management plan, we saw online that it had been. However, there were multiple sections on our application where the information was outdated. Kim reached out to Emily Farschon to address these inaccuracies but has not heard back. The plan is effective through 2026.

Trails: Ellen Silverman reports:

- We have liability insurance for the members if you're a Shade Tree Commission – question is if you don't have a Shade Tree Commission but you have an Environmental Commission that handles that if that liability insurance applies to them.
- Stewardship Grant – the paperwork has gone out for Ron Farr, now we need to know his timeline for getting the work done – he hasn't gotten back to Ellen yet.
- Everyone should have received a copy of the Trail Maintenance Annual Assessment Report – there is a budget request based on the findings of the assessment. Also, will apply to ANJEC for a portion (\$1500) of the budget. Even if they don't approve, I recommend we go for the whole budget.

Ellen Silverman made a motion to approve a budget of \$2,404.05, with a second from Dave Teich. The motion passed unanimously.

Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor reports:

- Replaced the sign on the enclosure Ellen has part of her project a new enclosure – make current enclosure bigger.
- Steve has some bushes, shrubs, native shrubs that can be planted inside the new enclosure, that are local to the area.

Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports:

- Last weekend was the third weekend of the month and was supposed to be our Stream Monitoring time, however, with all the holidays it was decided to hold off till this coming weekend. Corky and Jane will do the monitoring.
- Mary explains that the DEP wanted to calibrate everyone's thermometers to make sure we are getting proper readings – Ellen has brought it in but it has not been returned yet.
- DEP is proposing a new more expansive monitoring tool – it would be placed in the stream on the same day for the entire state or at least the part of the watersheds that the institute is monitoring – hopefully eliminating human error.

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports:

- Last month we have 75 approved points and now we have 35, but Ellen will look into and find out what the deal with the worksheet is.
- We have put in for Green Team, Environmental Commission, Virtual Green Fair and Community Forest Management Plan – that will bring us up 50 points – Ellen has also worked on all the action on the public information engagement area and that will bring us up another 50 points. Hazardous tree study will be another 10 and she is waiting on the update from Ron Farr and will be able to put that in. We have several things that Ellen is sure will have a place in Sustainable Jersey but she needs to locate those places - Trail Maintenance Plan, Assessments, Adopt a Storm Drain.
- Ellen sent out a calendar of events – they will help us with our Sustainable Jersey Grant – Steve Taylor states that there was a lot of repeated sessions for the public – where does the content come from? Ellen states those are for the trail work parties. Steve states his question on the calendar there was making a worm composting, evasive species identification, tool safety, taking care of garden tools, importance of planting native plants, seed collection etc.... Ellen states that speaker for one, a lot of those she can do because she is a speaker for master gardener. She can also get speakers and people to run workshops. Ellen was going to ask Steve if he could do the evasive plants identification – he will think about it. Ellen will hand out something with dates, so people could sign up. Ellen will also do a short educational thing – this is how you clean a storm drain and a little talk on non-point pollution.
- Discussion takes place amongst the members about the workshops and what they have done and how they can help.

Community Involvement:

1. Ellen Silverman states part of that was trying to make up the calendar, however, we have just not been able to meet and two of our members no longer want to meet. Right now, its Dave Teich and Ellen Silverman. Ellen asks everyone to look at the calendars and send her any suggestions.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Environmental Commission Year-end Report:

Ellen Silverman reports the Environmental Commission year-end report was sent to all members – any changes? None. This will be part of our re-emission to the Environmental Commission action as part of Sustainable Jersey and will send to Ana to put on the Environmental Commission part of the website.

ANJEC grant application:

Ellen Silverman reports everyone was sent a copy of the application, if approved tonight will contact Borough Hall and ask that Mayor do a letter and then will submit.

Ellen Silverman made a motion to approve the ANJEC grant application with a second from Kim Felong. The motion passed unanimously.

Stream Cleanup and Earth Day Activities:

Ellen Silverman reports we have six areas that we have permission to cleanup. In the past our pickups have been family events, I need a strong person in each area to lead the charge. We are doing trash not moving branches, it's on the edge of the stream both sides we do not have to go into the mud. Dave Teich is doing the section by his house going out to Rising Sun Tavern Road. Mary Tulloss is doing the section between 571 and Valley bike path. We have the section 571 to Tamara, the trail there and also the other side of the stream, we have the section from Tamara to the sewer plant. The part on the Assunpink seems to be all wetlands – not recommending that. Then there's the section from Valley bike path to Eleanor Lane. The section behind Pine Drive – protected farm land and some houses on Pine – a narrow strip. Kim Felong asks so there are four areas that need cover? Can we look for volunteers? Yes, to both. Kim will ask a couple people. Kim is going to pick up garbage bags and gloves from the Wetlands Institute on Friday. Ellen states she has the orange vests that Kim has purchased, but that only four. However, most of this is not on the highway. The stream on 571 by the gas station it's not passable. Mike Ticktin states maybe we can get Clean Communities money for this. Mary Tulloss states next weekend is the towns litter pickup. April 30th. Maria Dellasala states it has been posted on the website and at the Post Office. Steve Taylor states it would be good to post on the Roosevelt Calendar. So, people with I Cal link it would pop up. We will ask Ana to post. Stream Cleanup will meet up at the deli/post office parking lot. Ellen will put up a sign at the municipal building to meet at the deli/post office parking lot. Kim will post on the Roosevelt people past and present Facebook page.

Kim Felong asks with the Arbor Day Proclamation are we planting a tree? Steve Taylor always has a tree. We can plant at the school this Friday is Arbor Day. Take some pictures. Mike Ticktin will contact the Chairman of the School Board. 3:00pm Friday.

Ellen asks Maria if there are flyers that she can hand out at the stream cleanup for the town wide litter pick up. Maria states that Ana has the flyer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Kim Felong motioned to adjourn Tim Hartley offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:03 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary