

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 19, 2022 Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 7:04 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 Secretary Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner arrived at 7:14pm, Kim Felong, Tim Hartley, Mike Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, David Teich

Absent: Michael Hamilton, Nick Murray

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 21, 2022 – Kim Felong states under new business Ellen Silverman's name is miss-spelled and under programs composite class should read compost class. Mary Tulloss made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022, minutes with the corrections and a second from Dave Teich. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley reports that action taken was for a variance request for Hill Top Swim Club – there is a new owner are planning to put a house and a storage barn, one for the height of the house and the other was for approval to keep the storage shed that's been on the property; the shed is a temporary structure; they did receive approval on both. The tradeoff for the height was they agreed to forego any future sub-division of the property.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: Mike Ticktin reports that at the Council meeting Mike Hamilton gave an extensive report on the activities on the Environmental Commission. He asked once again if there was any council member that would be interested in serving as the Council member as the CORE representative. The major problem is the time involved and the fact that it is no longer offered virtually. Kim Felong states we have a conditional grant dependent on us remaining certified. Ellen Silverman states we may lose the grant. The grant is for the tree inventory and the amount we were paying out to whatever foresters we get was \$8,500 and we would match it with volunteer time. Ellen Silverman states we are certified for this year.

Forest Management: Ellen Silverman states that the CORE training could be an employee. Kim Felong states that she asked Mike Hamilton, and states that it has to be a municipal employee. Kim Felong also asked the Public Works employee. Ellen Silverman states the information has been sent to the Borough Attorney, who recommended we send a letter to Ron Farr, (Forester hired) stating the grant is past the due date, it was not done the contract is now terminated. Once the letter is sent out Ellen Silverman has three other foresters to contact to see if any of them would be interested in doing the tree inventory.

NJUCF/TRAILS – Ellen Silverman states that she and Steve Taylor did an assessment walk and that Mike Hamilton join them for a part of it on Saturday. The trails look pretty good, need to re-route a part of it that is in the Assunpink section from the Valley bike trail to the cemetery. All the puncheons need to be looked at a few areas need mulch and we did see a tree that the beavers have chewed down. When it comes down it will come down on the path. Ellen Silverman will advise Ana.

Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor reports as Ellen Silverman reported we walked the trail I took the trail map and highlighted on the map a couple places where there were fairly large quantities of invasive species that we should prioritize. There is one group of Autumn Olive by the waste treatment plant and another cluster of invasive species where the trail crosses Tamara and another where the trail crosses Rochdale. We still need to get the rest of the participants, Sam Ashburner and Dave Teich, so once we come up with an official plan it will be distributed to all for comment. Mary Tulloss states that at the Council meeting, Councilwoman Herrstrom stated that if a person is having a tree removed they pay extra to the person chipping the wood and taking it away, she wondered instead if the wood could be chipped and left here to be put down on the trails. Ellen Silverman replies if it's a diseased tree it's not something we want to put down so we can't automatically say yes. Mick Ticktin states that he doesn't think the people chipping the tree will be able to determine if the tree is diseased or not. Ellen Silverman agrees. Ellen Silverman states we trust the tree company we get our chips from and have requested non-diseased trees.

Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports:

The Watershed Institute had a webinar on Water Monitoring. Some key points covered were:

- NJ is geologically very diverse – there are 958 hydrologic units
- Summary of 5 years of data from the state
 - o Water Temperature -?
 - o Nitrates – good
 - o Phosphate – lots of problem areas
 - o Turbidity – ok
 - o Dissolved oxygen – generally good due to better sewage treatment
- Roosevelt data
 - o Water temperature - excellent
 - o Average of Nitrate - excellent
 - o Phosphate – poor
 - o pH – poor
 - o Turbidity – fair, varies seasonally
 - o Dissolved oxygen – excellent

Empty Box Brook at paved path near Solar Village

A lot of beaver activity. At least one beaver living in the area. Quite a few trees taken down by the beaver including one we were using as a high-water marker. Bark at base of some large trees has been chewed off. The water level is high on both sides of the path. It would be good to have a good idea of what the viaduct under the path looks like. Should we put a hole in the accumulated soil to let water flow through?

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports she filled out all the information to close out the grant and we still have \$300 in the calendar category, and can be spent if we extend the grant to the end of November so she asked for the extension. Waiting to hear back. Also the wonderful benches that Dave Teich built for by the display area by the school. They are art benches and they are beginning to get more art like as the days go by. Heidi is working on one and the one Ellen Silverman is working on is pure white but won't stay like that.

Community Involvement: Ellen Silverman states the newsletter we sent out was well received, people read it and paid attention, however it's been very slow in getting anyone to adopt a storm drain. People however are adopting them they are just not making it official. Steve Taylor states that he noticed that at the Valley triangle there is a QR Code to sign up for the adopt a drain. Ellen Silverman states she put the signs up. Dave designed the code and it works. The members discuss how the residents sign up to adopt a drain and how the email is received on each drain. Many people are cleaning drains but are not officially signed up. Gloves are located in the storage shed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mary Tulloss: A community member (Jeb Shahn) wanted the Environmental Commission to investigate using **TerraCycle** in town. A resident receives a box where they can place hard to recycle items. The boxes are taken/shipped back to TerraCycle.

Members discussed what is accepted and what is not. Kim Felong states she participates at school in the TerraCycle – some boxes are free and some have a fee, she was put on a waiting list for the free products. Some boxes can be mixed but some cannot, typically it is only one type of item in each box. Boxes range around \$250. Ellen Silverman states that she would like a place for all those more than once use bags. Mike Ticktin states that the law may be changing. Sam Ashburner states that it is being discussed that stores have to take back the bags. Sam Ashburner also thinks one of these TerraCycle boxes would be good at the school, it's a good start.

Ellen Silverman asks Sam Ashburner if he has some things to do on the trail over the next two weeks for the art walk, do you need help with that. Sam Ashburner will take a walk and take some notes and then let Ellen Ashburner know.

Jeb Shahn also suggested we look into **TruEarth** Laundry strips – no plastic bottle to transport detergent in. It is suggested that an article gets written for the bulletin and also post on the Friends of the Environmental Commission Facebook page as a suggestion not that the Environmental Commission is endorsing.

Hilary gives a report on the water story, currently working on Chapter 5, Stormwater and Flood Management. In 2020 the standards for Stormwater were updated, we are a Tier B municipality, which is not as heavily regulated as a Tier A. The DEP does want to change Roosevelt to a Tier A. Recently some Tier B municipalities have been changed to Tier A. The Borough adopted a Flood Water Management Plan.

Mary states that in July the Borough Council adopted the Stormwater Management Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Kim Felong motioned to adjourn Sam Ashburner offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:02 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary