

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 16, 2022 Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:01 P.M. via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNlhPYTZZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>

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, Michael Hamilton, Mike Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Kim Felong, Tim Hartley, Nick Murray, Dave Teich

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 Michael Hamilton to approve the agenda and second was made by Mary Tulloss. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 19, 2022 – Mary Tulloss made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022, and a second from Michael Hamilton. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Michael Hamilton reports that the Council meeting on October 17, 2022 was in person at Borough Hall. Items discussed - New classification from the NJDEP that Roosevelt will now be a Tier A municipality. There has been a problem with people parking on the grass, Code Enforcement will address. Community Development working on a Monmouth County Open Space Grant, will apply for grant to improve the Amphitheater, will do in 2 phases, each grant can be up to \$250,000. The sewer line was televised – found rocks in the pipe. The 2020 Audit has been approved and we are working on the 2021 Audit. Next Council

meeting will be November 21, 2022 and the December meetings will be on the 12th. and the 20th. Upcoming projects – the Engineer will be reviewing the trickling filters.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: None

Forest Management: None

NJUCF/TRAILS – Ellen Silverman sent the following report after Ellen, Steve Taylor and Mike Hamilton did this walk; and have updated what materials are needed, suggest we buy them before the end of the year. Ellen asks everyone to review and get back to her.

Trail Maintenance Annual Assessment Report Fall 2022 [blue](#) is the additions to Spring assessment.

Year Accomplishments

General:

Town insurance information volunteers covered under Monmouth JIF (Joint Insurance Fund) for general liability and public officials. <http://www.monmouthjif.org/members/>

Indication of trash near trail and in water. This indicates that an annual stream clean-up day is needed. Stream clean-up was done in the Spring, in partnership with the Watershed Institute. Recommendation to continue this program in 2023.

Inspect puncheons quarterly and after major storm events.

Puncheons were inspected twice. 2022 has not had the rain we had in 2021 and the estimate of new puncheons have been lowered from 8 to 2.

Inspect trail for down trees and tree branches quarterly and after major storm events.

Quarterly inspections have been done.

Activities plan to protect the native plant community surrounding the trail:

A management plan for the invasive plants that are affecting the trail's native plant community. The target areas will be determined by the Invasive Plant Committee head, Steve Taylor.

Deer enclosure: We currently have one deer enclosure set up to protect native plants. The maintenance of this structure will be included in this plan. Annual additions enclosures are part of our CMFP.

Deer enclosure material will be ordered this Fall and installed. This will include one large area and 2 or 3 small ones for individual or small group plants.

Invasive plants removal this year has concentrated in two places. At the School's trailhead at the new Compost Display area and at the trailhead by the Sewer plant. A new schedule had been created by Steve Taylor after the Fall Assessment walk.

Trailhead signs, birdhouses, and art chairs will be inspected annually and maintained.

Two trailhead signs, need posts replaced and one needs to be moved for the rerouting of the path. All need to be cleaned and a protected coat. Note: This would probably be a good time to make new signs with the correct name of the trail. Birdhouse for ducks need to be replaced, possibly new ones added. Art chairs need to be cleaned and protected coat put on them. Decision made on birdhouse, how many, what kind, and where to install. Note: Possibly have a birdhouse workshop early winter. In time to install new birdhouses before March nesting season. 6 new benches were planned to be installed on the Town owned part of the trail for 2022. Two new benches at School Trailhead, have been installed, but other four are pending.

Leader of Trail work session should carry Special Use permit, while working in the Assunpink sections of trail.

New Special Use permit must be applied for 2023, for general maintenance. A separate special use permit is needed for the 2 new puncheons and rerouting of trail near the Valley bike trail.

Proposed Schedule of work

Trail Work Parties I propose a hybrid planning for trail work both consistent group day activities, with special times called for needed work, and give the volunteers the ability to do task on their own time frame. But how would we set this up so that people could do these tasks on their own and we will still be able to monitor the volunteer hours? What system could we set up to get reminders out about the group trail work times. What kind of system would we need, something like signup genius?

Consistent days, for example every third Saturday, 9:00am – 12:00pm and every first and third Tuesday evening, 6:30pm - 7 :30pm between May and October. Other groups events will be called for special projects.

The Trail Work Party schedule was poorly attended in 2022. Although some new volunteers have been recruited. A new method of communication with an email mailing list was set up, but is not currently active for trail work. This email mailing list has been used to document, sign up for the Adopt a Storm Drain Program. Work needs to be done to make this an email list a successful communication tool for the Trail Maintenance Team.

Need new ideas for encouraging trail work volunteerism. One idea is individuals or groups can adopt a part of the trail. We would provide the need maintenance needs of the trail for these volunteers and need to come up with a way to document hours. Mulching, puncheon and down tree limbs inspection, and the invasive plant removal schedule for each section.

Trail Area, Pine Drive Trail head near sewer plant – Tamara Dr. Section A (Assunpink)

Bare soil trail needs to be covered with mulch where tree roots are above the soil (causing a tripping hazard) and in low shallow areas, which tend to become muddy.

Some mulch has been placed on the trail starting from the trail head at Tamara Dr. More is needed.

Current puncheons near Sewer plant need realignment and sleepers. 14 puncheons

Puncheons still need realignment and nails inspected. One new puncheon is needed.

There are several areas of the trail in which the dip is too deep or where a stream of water crosses that will need a new puncheon. Ellen Silverman and David Teich, counted four areas where that

was the case and recommend 6 new puncheons be added. The puncheon design will be the simpler design, that was used on the trail on the 571 to Valley Road Bike path. (Put design code in here.) Number of puncheons recommend 6.

One new puncheon is needed. The lower number is due to lower amount of rain in 2022 from 2021

One trailhead kiosk and two art chairs are in this section. Chairs, should be cleaned inspected and coated with protection coat.

Trail sign at Sewer plant needs to be replaced, chairs need to be cleaned and a protected coat put on them.

Target invasive plants in this area are at the two trail heads, Sewer plant and Tamara Dr. as well as one area in the interior of the trail. The Sewer plant trail head was worked on this Fall.

Trail Area, Tamara Dr. – 571 (at the Schoolyard) Section B (Borough of Roosevelt)

Bare soil trail needs to be covered with mulch where tree roots are above the soil (causing a tripping hazard) and in low shallow areas, which tend to become muddy.

This section has been mostly covered by mulch at least once. Could use a new coat.

Swamp area, near Tamara Dr. at long stretch of puncheons. Clear trenches under puncheons for water flow. These trenches should be checked quarterly and after heavy rain events and cleared when necessary. This area has had problems with puncheon be dislocated from trail, Stabilizer soil screws are recommended for 3 of these units.

One new puncheon is recommended near Tamara Dr. <https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm07232804/page07.htm> Bog Bridge with sleepers, figure 50

Currently this puncheon near Tamara Dr. is not needed.

Trailhead sign, Trail warning signs, two art chairs and birdhouse (need birdhouse count and marked on trail maintenance map): Chairs and wooden signs should be cleaned inspected and coated with protection coat.

Chairs and trail signs need to be cleaned and protected. Note: trail signs could be remade to show the correct name of the trail.

Currently an empty sign structure has fallen down and needs to be removed and its wood reused for puncheon repairs.

This empty sign structure has been removed and the wood repurposed.

New trailhead kiosk needs to be built at the trailhead near 571 at the school yard. (There is money allocated through the Sustainable Jersey grant 2022 Anyone want to take on this project: the design will be the same as the other trail kiosk, but with two bulletin board sides, front and back. One side would have the trail information and the other side will have the information about the mulch demonstration area)

School trailhead does have a kiosk and two new benches have been installed. A program of removing invasive plants has been ongoing in this area and sample of composting bins have been installed there. This area has shown increase use for EC workshops and talks.

Trail Area, 571 to Valley Road Bike Path: Section C (Borough of Roosevelt)

Bare soil trail needs to be covered with mulch where tree roots are above the soil (causing a tripping hazard) and in low shallow areas, which tend to become muddy.

Section of this part of the trail have been mulched both on the Valley bike trail side and 571 side. The middle section still needs to be mulched.

Damage tree is leaning over trail.

Still there but seems stable. Some tree damage at the Valley bike trail, caused by beaver activity. One tree removed for safety reasons. Others need to be monitored. The water is rising close to the trail, near the Valley Bike Trail, due to the beavers, currently it is not effecting the trail, but this needs to be monitored.

1 new puncheon recommended

This puncheon is no currently needed.

Trail Area, Valley Road Bike Path to Eleanor Road: Section D (Assunpink)

Trail needs to be route where trail is eroding the banks of empty box brook, this area is a low swampy section. There are two places, close to Valley Road Bike Path. This area of the trail will be moved up the side of the incline running parallel with the current path, approximately 25 feet. The trail committee will mark out route with flags and clear out underbrush and mulch new section. Branches will be placed on the closed section to discourage use. The trail head sign at Valley Road Bike Path will be move to new trail head.

Bare soil trail needs to be covered with mulch where tree roots are above the soil (causing a tripping hazard) and in low shallow areas, which tend to become muddy.

Trail still needs to be rerouted, special use permit needs to applied for this and the potential need of a puncheon on the reroute trail section.

Two art chairs are in this section.

Need to be cleaned and protected coating applied.

Suggested new structures.

Trail head kiosk (money through Sustainable Jersey Grant) This paid for the kiosk, two new benches, extra wood, clear spar varnish.

2 new puncheons T&D Publications USDA United States Forest Service <https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/htm07232804/page07.htm> Bog Bridge with sleepers, figure 50

Deck 2x6x12ft #2 Prime Ground Contact Pressure treated lumber \$12.18 (3 needed) \$36.54

4 benches (16) 2 x 8 x 8 (note can this be 2x6 instead?) use the 4' extra for decking. Some are on hand. (check) This is wood based on a simple bench for nature trails. The design is called the Leopold bench it was originally designed by Aldo Leopold. <https://rogueengineer.com/diy-outdoor-bench-plans-with-back/> This is the suggested design has not been decided on. 2x8x8 10.98 x 16 \$175.68

Bird house both new and replacement. Wood Duck nesting box specs. Floor – 10" by 18", Depth 10" to 24" inches, Entrance height above floor – 12" to 16", Entrance diameter 4" by 3", Recommended height above ground. 10' to 20'. Suggested wood is cedar or redwood. Number and types to be decided. <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-wood-duck-nest-box>

Materials per box (note was unable to find good source of wood. Looked into kits)

1 1x10x10 (cedar)

1 1x12x13 cedar

2" exterior grade deck screws (34 to 40 per box)

1 galvanized screen door propeller latch

4 x 12 metal mesh

<https://www.woodducknestboxes.com/duck.html> sells kits 4 kits are \$200.00 for split door kit and \$178.00 for Full door version. Shipping is estimated to be \$42.00 for 4 kits. Total \$242.00

Maintenance supplies: Environmental Commission Shed needs to be cleaned and equipment and supplies assessed. Current wood needs to be inventoried.

Post for three trail signs 6 4x4x8 10.78 Total 64.68

Sign boards for all 8 trail signs 1" x 6" x 8" S1S2E standard ban saw Eastern White Pine. 9 x \$13.98 total \$125.82

Puncheon replacement wood and hardware

Puncheon Stabilizing soil screws (ground anchors) Home Depot Vortex 16 in. Steel Folding Ring Spiral Ground Anchor \$14.98 12 total 179.76

Preservative for wood signs and chairs Seal Once Marine 1 Gal. Clear Premium Wood Sealer and Stain for Exterior Use 1 gal. Model#S07614 \$ 66.98 Bought with grant money.

3M Safety-Walk 2" x 5YDS. Gray Home and Recreation Tread Model# 7647NA 14.98 x 6 total 89.88

Deck Screws 5 lbs. Deck mate #9 x 3 in. Black Star Flat-Head Wood Deck Screw Model#DMB5 34.97

Box of Safety-Walk tape has been donated for change in elevation in puncheons. There is enough tape for 2 puncheon sections.

New Deer Enclosure 25' x 25' or add to existing enclosure for a total 2500 square feet (additional enclosure is part of our CFMP goals)

Prune out view windows to stream on trail area c. (No additional cost)

[Not completed in 2022 in carried over to 2023 plan](#)

Also nature viewing deck in same area. (Possible Scouting project)

No current takers for this project

Tree labels.

Steve Taylor is working list for tree and other environmental labeling for trail.

Recap of Budget request

New Structures

2 new puncheons wood

Enclosure \$315.64 + \$28.82 (note update of prices not completed)

4 Benches

Sign post for signs

Signs, nature information from Master plan, Natural Resource Survey and tree tags.

Current structure Maintenance

Stabilizing soil screws

Safety tape 89.88

Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor reports that he sent out pictures of the cleanup, Ellen Silverman, Ben Johnson and Steve did by the waste treatment plant; and there is another section in between the waste treatment plant and Tamara where there is some Japanese knotweed, but it's too late in the year to address. Can be a project for next spring.

Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports: This weekend coming is Stream Monitoring, this time of the year it gets tough due to the cold. Sam Ashburner stated that he removed some logs that had fallen into the creek, (mid last week). He will also look to see what can be done by the bicycle path. Mary contacted the County Engineer regarding high water under the bridge and concern for the ground under the bridge being eroded – this is the reply from the County:

The bridge department inspector went out this morning to investigate and about 60 ft downstream there is beaver dam. Beavers have been a nuisance to bridge structures in this area for a while now but unfortunately there is nothing the county can do to alleviate this issue. The way that permits are secured for beaver removal is that the property owner of the location of the dam has to request and secure the permit and trapper. From the tax map it appears to be either Roosevelts property or within the Assunpink preserve.

If you need additional information or help, please feel free to give me a call

Thank you
Michael Ruggiero, P.E.
Principal Engineer
Monmouth County

The will not relocate the Beaver's; they will be trapped. They did not address the water level. Mary asks if the Borough have someone look at it and see if there is a way punch threw so the water can flow better. Mike Hamilton states the Borough Engineer will be t the next Council

meeting and ask if she has any suggestions, will also ask about the Beaver deceiver. Mary will also contact the Watershed Institute and ask if they have any suggestions.

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports the last time to put information this year is at the end of this month. We do not have enough points to maintain our Bronze certification. We will be coming in strong in 2023. Just want to finish the money for the grant and asked if we can reallocate dollars to another area.

Community Involvement: Ellen Silverman states that part of the assessment where we were doing the volunteerism – is not working out, would like to take a look at it again. Adopt a Storm Drain is at 20% of the town to participate. Although taking time but it's working.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Hamilton motioned to adjourn Mary Tulloss offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:56 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary