

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 15, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Ellen Silverman on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:05 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 Ellen Silverman 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 Asbury Park Press and Times of Trenton on February 13, 2023 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, Mike Hamilton, Tim Hartley, David Teich, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman, Erin Schneider (arrived at 7:15pm) and Ben Johnson

Absent: Mary Tulloss

SWEARING IN OF NEW AND REAPPOINTED MEMBERS: Secretary Maria Dellasala swears in David Teich, as a Regular Member and Ben Johnson as Alt 2 Member.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: Chairperson Silverman 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 Ticktin to approve the agenda and second was made by Dave Teich. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 18, 2023 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the January 18, 2023, minutes with a second from Dave Teich. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Public Comment on the Water Story – M. Merritt comments on the Water Story attached.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley states he has nothing to report first meeting this year will be next week.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: C/Hamilton states the Council has a lot going on:

*At the February 6, 2023 Council meeting there was a presentation by Neil Schloss on Cannabis, some of the items discussed was security, trails, odor, pollution, lighting, hoop houses, screening, filtration system and the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee, it's a study group and looking for volunteers from residents and other committees within the town.

*Traffic Calming devices, speed humps/speed cushions, pros/cons - some residents in favor and some are not, First Responders also weighed in that speed humps delay first responders on response time. Borough Engineer estimates that speed humps can cost up to \$10,000 per hump. Speed cushions can be removed. Also the possibility of adding sidewalks on new construction. Research still be done.

*Flooding in town, we have looked into some of the flooding problems at the end of Pine Drive and the sewer treatment plant. Water levels have gone up by the sewer treatment plant, some work may need to be done down the road on the trickling filters. There are a series of beaver dams in the Assunpink, Joe Trammel and Steve Macher were out on site, the Lake is about 3 ½ feet lower than the launch of the sewer treatment plant. We walked the site with Mike Lyons who is a certified treatment plant operator and Larry Cier who is a DEP water/sewer person, who is in charge of monitoring our waters. He did have a lot of concerns, and visited the Assunpink and got them to take some action. The beaver dams are significant; the DEP took down 3 dams. Steve Macher took out his kayak and said the beaver deceivers are working.

Ellen Silverman asks the following:

1. the agru-tourism – is that to do with cannabis or just another item that Lawrence works to work on? He mentioned it and that he needed a cash crop in order to do agru-tourism, I think it was just tourism of a working farm.
2. 5 – 3000 hoop houses, this would be 15,000 feet, right? C/Hamilton: Correct and Ellen Silverman states that's a lot on impervious surface. We need to know how the environmental issues will be addressed.
3. traffic calming – study is showing that snow plowing would be very difficult with speed humps? C/Hamilton states the speed cushions can be removed for snow plowing, however we don't have the man power to do that.
4. beaver deceivers - we installed already and why is there still that difference in water level? C/Hamilton said that 2 have been installed and are working. Tim Hartley states it has to do with the size of the pipe from the up-stream to down-stream side, and the total amount of water that is backed up. It needs to be monitored.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative – Michael Ticktin reports nothing to report other than that change at the top, Ellen Silverman being the Chair and Michael Ticktin being the Vice Chair.

Forest Management: Sam Ashburner reports the Urban and Community Forestry program report was submitted a couple days ago. When I hear back I'll let everyone know. We installed 3 of the 4 Wood Duck Nesting Boxes, they were put in where existing Nesting Boxes were already. One just on the other side of Solar Village, one on North Valley and 571 and one between 571 and Tamara Drive. There is still one new box to be installed which hopefully will take care of this weekend, depending on the weather. Two of the three older boxes can be refurbished and will find places for them along the trail.

Re-routing of Trail entrance: Trail entrance behind Solar Village was moved to avoid some low lying wetland area, so its slightly closer to Solar Village, the volunteers did a wonderful job lining the trail with mulch and edging on the side, signage for the trail was also

moved. Some of the old stumps and trees were placed at the old entrance so people won't use anymore. Ellen Silverman states that the volunteers have been very busy, they also reset the puncheons run up by the sewer treatment plant, needs just a little more work. Steve Taylor put up some identification signs. Ellen Silverman states that we have a new person to adopt the trail head by Tamara Lane. Dave Teich is working on benches that will be placed in a couple of weeks.

Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor states he is still working on the enclosure, gate is almost done, just waiting on warm weather to put up the fence.

Stream Monitoring: Ellen Silverman states that stream monitoring is going on as planned. Today Ellen signed up to do a citizen's signs program with the Watershed Institute, measuring the salt on the roads that get into the stream.

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports the first deadline to present our points and assure that we get our bronze is the end of the month. We currently we have 125 points, we need 150 points for bronze. We have the water story, lead in drinking water, water conservation (both educational programs), composting, one of the aspects of public information regarding our website, those should get us 55 points, however, it won't get approved by the end of the month. Also Ellen Silverman states she is attending a webinar about sustainable jersey's process and will let them know that it's not enough time to get all the actions completed. If all goes well, we'll have the priorities we need, the categories and the points for bronze and should be in running for a gold star in water story. Ellen Silverman sent everyone the navigational path template, which is part of the water story and also sent a community involvement calendar draft, we also have a report on one of our initiatives. Dave Teich states that we had our first community involvement meeting on January 31st., there were about 6 people there, a couple of newcomers, Jaffa and Ellie, Ellie is the one who adopted the trail head, we presented a list of topics, to gauge interest on what people would like these dessert and discussion to cover. We made some good contacts and planning the next meetings, maybe the third Tuesdays each month. Next plan is to do build it yourself lantern fly traps. It was a positive meeting. We have not come up with a February date.

Tim Hartley reminds that the stream water gauges need to be installed. Tim has discussed this with Steve Macher and will get together within the next week or two. Ellen Silverman asks if we will be monitoring them? Tim Hartley will present some suggestions.

Old Business: None

NEW BUSINESS

Ellen Silverman states that the template was sent out for the Approval of Water Story Navigation Plan. We will address our water concerns, drinking water quality, removing lead in drinking water which is an educational program where we would put out information several times a year indicating that people should test the lead in the drinking water, how to remediate and how to avoid it. Michael Ticktin asks has there been any evidence that anyone has found in any houses lead in the drinking water? Ellen Silverman replies since we do not test people's homes she does not think we would know. C/Hamilton states the Borough doesn't know of any. Michael Ticktin states we have never had any cases that anyone has brought to our attention of lead in drinking water, it's important to know that. The County Health Department may be the only agency that would know., that is the first place to check. C/Hamilton states that when the water is drawn it comes right from the homeowners tap, so the water is coming from the pipes. Ellen Silverman states that each house will be a different situation. Michael Ticktin states that we can tell people that it is something to be concerned about and test for it but we have no evidence at this point. Ellen Silverman states that other areas of concern we

would be dealing with are: repeat flooding after heavy rain, concern with water supply, water conservation education program, conserving water inside the house but also watering during gardening season. Last thing addressing surfacing water quality through our community forest management. Some of our actions have already addresses some of these concerns and are ongoing the other two are educational. That is part of the navigational plan, please review and comment. Mary Tulloss asked that we include in our meeting a Land and People acknowledgement in which we acknowledge that this is ancestral land. Michael Ticktin states that Mary Tulloss should just read what she has at the beginning of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Michael Hamilton offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:01 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary