

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 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, March 15, 2023 at 7:02 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 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, David Teich, Michael Ticktin (arrived at 7:08pm), Ellen Silverman, and Ben Johnson

Absent: Tim Hartley, Mary Tulloss, Erin Schneider

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 Hamilton to approve the agenda and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 15, 2023 – Michael Hamilton made a motion to approve the February 15, 2023, minutes with a second from Sam Ashburner. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: C/Hamilton reports Public Works is working with Tim Hartley marking streams with stream gauges and the Mayor’s appointments were approved one for the Environmental Commission and one for the Planning Board. Under public comment one citizen from Nurko Road had questions about proposed cannabis in Roosevelt Borough. No cannabis committee yet, there are still security concerns. C/Hamilton states he was out by Solar

Village looking for Beavers, he hadn't seen them in a while as he was standing there a tiny little head poked out as soon as he seen me he went right back down, this is the time of the year when they have their offspring. Born fully furred and can swim.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative – No Report

Forest Management: Sam Ashburner reports that he was planning to hang the remaining nesting boxes however, the weather has not been good, plan to do soon. Sam has submitted notification to the Roosevelt Bulletin about the upcoming trail day in June of this year. Also Sam would like to step down from Community Forest Management – he has not found the time to log the details, he will stay on until there is a replacement. Sam states it is compiling the volunteer hours. There is a google document sheet that we use. There is also tracking of CEU credits, it is relatively simple, however, Sam just doesn't have the time but will show someone else how to do it. Ellen Silverman asks – both Ben and Ellen are taking a class, I Tree – a series of courses this month, its mapping and putting in data processing of your trees, its used by US Forestry. Do you think it will count for CEU's for Forest Management? Sam believes so and will check into it. Ben Johnson gives an overview of what they learned. Ben states it was an introductory class, comprehensive program, can be used by any size town. Steve Taylor asks how do you know if a tree has been logged in? Ellen believes it's like GPS coordinates, when you logged it in it shows that documentation. Steve asks – so you can't make double entries? Ellen states they try to make it fail safe. Ellen states this might be good on the street survey of trees. Not sure how we would be sure about errors. Ben states there is a tool that is my tree – which can kick out a report but it's not to say that someone else may have reported that tree, hopefully we can get additional information.

Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor reports on 2 sessions that we've had in the last month on removal of multiflora rose on the trail west of Valley Road, there is still a lot more there to be removed.

Stream Monitoring: Ellen Silverman states that she did her 4th test today of road salt and it was slightly more elevated from the first 3. Not in a danger zone, but then we haven't had weather that required putting salt on the road.

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports she emailed 2 resolutions that we need to send to the Borough Council, one is Sustainable Land Management (basically a guidance) and the other is recognizing Arbor Day. Our Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration (April 22, 2023) – the Mayor will be planting a tree. It will also be the Stream Clean Up Day. Do go on the Watershed Site and sign up, they are offering a tree sapling. We ordered tree saplings for the school children. Michael Tickin offers a motion to approve both of the resolutions and send them to the Borough Council, with a second from Sam Ashburner. All are in favor. None opposed.

Community Involvement: Dave Teich reports that we had our 2nd. Dessert and Discussion – we did building a Spotted Lantern Fly Trap – and did a demonstration, we had about ½ dozen people in attendance. Ben Johnson made a video and we posted on our new You Tube Channel (www.youtube.com/@rooseveltborogreenteam). April 21, 2023 will be our next Dessert and Discussion on Recycling.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ellen would like to open a discussion about re-instituting our meeting live as opposed to Zoom. The council discusses the pros and cons of live meeting vs zoom meeting and after much discussion the council decide to re-institute live meetings beginning with the April 19, 2023 meeting. Ellen Silverman makes a motion for in person meeting beginning April 19, 2023, with a second from Michael Hamilton. All are in favor, none opposed. Maria Dellasala will check with Ana to make sure the meeting room is still available on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, if so Maria will advertise in person meeting.

Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration – Ellen Silverman there will be a lot going on in one day, Earth Day, Arbor Day Celebration – we are going to have a tree planting and a Proclamation. We will have a Stream Clean Up – Ellen hope everyone can help with this; we have saplings that are going to be given out and would like to have an Environmental Commission member at an information table, and emphasize the Water Story. This is April 22, 2023, Earth Day. Then there’s going to be educational activities with the school, not that day but during the school week; there will be displays at the event from the school. Michael Hamilton recommends if anybody can get into the Stream, some of the sections the drainage from some swampy areas to drain over to the little culverts, to drain over to the stream, they need to be kept clear, some are not functional. Ellen states that may be different, this is more of a liter pick up at the stream area, that seems more of clearing channels. Michael Hamilton states it’s a section by the Sewer Treatment Plant and from Tamara to Solar Village Bike Trail. Sam Ashburner states he has identified similar issues and does plan to go out and chop up some of the roots when we get warmer weather. Michael Hamilton states he would like to go out with Sam, he has some tools they can use. Ellen asks if they would make a report, where it is and we can put on our list of maintenance. Michael Hamilton asks what kind of markers; how do we designate where the channels are where we are working, do we have a map for that? Ellen replies we have a general trail map, maybe we can mark with some flags.

Public Comment: Steve Taylor states he can’t find the You Tube Channel, it would be nice to be in the minutes and the Borough Website. (www.youtube.com/@rooseveltborogreenteam) Dave Teich will send to everyone. Ellen states there has been talk about doing a video of the Water Story that Hilary did, she does not want to be the voice on the video, if someone would like to be the voice of the Water Story, please volunteer,

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Ellen Silverman offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:57 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary