

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 19, 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, April 19, 2023 at 7:04 P.M.

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by notices published in the Asbury Park Press on March 21, 2023 and the Times of Trenton on March 22, 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: Michael Hamilton, Tim Hartley (arrived at 7:11pm), David Teich, Michael Ticktin Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, Erin Schneider and Ben Johnson

Absent: Sam Ashburner, Dave Teich

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for the agenda.

1. Michael Merritt – 6 S. Rochdale Ave – Thanks the Commission for all of the events they have put together and states that they are very active. Questions if the Borough has a Recycling Coordinator and who the point of contact is. C/Hamilton will look into it.

Seeing no other 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 Mary Tulloss. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 15, 2023 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the March 15, 2023, minutes with a second from Mary Tulloss. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Sustainable Land Use Pledge Resolution passed by the Borough Council on April 3, 2023.
2. ANJEC 2023 Environmental Commission Grants – 2023 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardships Projects – Applications due Monday, April 17, 2023.
3. DEP's Stormwater Program is accepting informal comments on its draft model tree ordinance.
4. The 2023 New Jersey Sustainability Summit is Only One Month Away.
5. Webinar: NJ's Plastic Reduction Law, One Year Later – Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Mary Tulloss reads the Land and People Acknowledgement Statement:

The land and waterways upon which the residents of the Borough of Roosevelt gather and live are the ancestral and unceded Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni- Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the area we call New Jersey. We honor this ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape Nation. May we live in harmony, caring for this sacred land.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley reports there have been no Planning Board meeting since our last meeting and that the Master Plan has everything in place regarding Cannabis. There have been some unofficial discussions, once the Borough Council does anything, that's when the Planning Board will get involved.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: C/Hamilton reports that the Borough Council had a presentation on Cannabis. A lot of questions were asked regarding smells, lights, enclosed buildings vs hoop houses, revenues, cannabis officer. C/Trammell also states there are concerns with the skunky odor, talks about opting in and opting out, changing the zoning ordinance and possibility of lawsuits either by residents of Roosevelt or even Millstone. C/Hamilton continues; there are also concerns for the Borough Council on security issues. Two of the three farms are on preserved land and as of now they cannot grow. The Borough Council will proceed carefully. Some of the First responders were at the Borough Council meeting on April 17, 2023 and received a Proclamation and Letter from the Mayor and Borough Council. There is a 3:00pm meeting on Thursday regarding the Amphitheater. It was also discussed about the possibility of a cannabis testing facility on the old gas station property.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative – No Report

Forest Management: Ellen Silverman reports that the enclosure is finished and Steve Taylor has been adding to the enclosure.

Invasive Plant Species – Not a lot of activity.

Stream Monitoring – Mary Tulloss reports that this past weekend for monitoring. Things are holding steady, we have low nitrates, low phosphates and the PH stays about 6, the water still looks clean. Our thermometer gets calibrated yearly. Ellen Silverman did the last of the salt testing on the road and it is staying steady, there is not a large amount of salt being put into the stream because we have not used a lot of salt this year.

Tim Hartley states he followed up with C/Macher about getting together and installing the gauge monitors, hopefully by next month. There will be four locations, Valley Road Path, Rochdale, Tamara and Sewer Plant. Ellen Silverman asks about monitoring. Mary Tulloss states they can do each month when they are out there doing their monitoring. Tim Hartley states once a month will be good but probably should do when we have a weather event.

Community Involvement: Ellen Silverman states Dave Teich sent a report about the Dessert and Discussion – we have had a small but devoted following, with 6-8 people attending each time. Last month we did a presentation on recycling in Roosevelt and last night was on

birds in Roosevelt. We had Susan Matson, a very experienced birder from Hightstown, doing a slide presentation. Ben Johnson did the video camera work, and a video will be posted shortly to our small but growing number of You Tube videos. On April 25, 2023 Ellen Silverman will be attending a “Build a Rain Barrel” workshop, with the thought of presenting this kind of workshop as a future D&D.

Old Business:

Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration

April 22, 2023

9:00am – 1:00 pm

Borough Council, Environmental Commission, Roosevelt School, Watershed

Goals

- Introduce Community members to our streams
- The importance of trees
- Remove trash from Trails and Streams
- Educate on non-point pollution and tree identification
- Increase membership to Green Team

Activities

Proclamation and Tree Planting 12:30

Town tree sapling give away (there are two give away streams: 1. The Wetlands Institute will be giving one away to Stream Clean up volunteers. 2. A limited number will be available to the town from the EC purchase of bare root trees. (the time will be based on this one when the trees come in)

Stream Clean up

Those that official sign up with Watershed Institute will get a tree sapling

Litter pick up on trail and stream (need 5-6 team leaders for this activity)

Area 1: Behind Tamara Drive from Road, Area from road leading into Assunpink to Sewer Treatment plant (This is a large and difficult terrain area may need to be divided up further) Special use permit needed for this area.

Area 2: Assunpink stream on land across from Brown Street to Rising Sun Lake. Special use permit needed for this area.

Area 3: Stream and wetlands near trail between Tamara and School

Area 4: Stream and wetland area between 571 and Valley Bike Trail

Area 5: Stream and Wetland area between Valley bike trail and Cemetery

*Display of information about RPS educational activities for Earth Day”

Environmental Commission Information Table at Compost Display area. Included in this area Water Story, signups for the green team and for the Adopt the Stream program. (Need two people to be at table)

Dessert and Discussion, Community Outreach information table resources, and Water Story Community Outreach in Reports of Committees:

New Business:

- 1. New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Membership:** Ellen Silverman states the NJ Shade Tree Federation we should be a member. They are part of that Core Education group that teaches about trees., they also have tree grants that we can apply for. It's a \$95 annual membership fee. Motion was made by Ellen Silverman that we become members of the NJ Shade Tree Federation and second was made by Michael Hamilton. This passed by unanimous vote.
- 2. Acknowledgement and thanks for the roof repair on the Environmental Commission Shed:** Michael Ticktin makes a motion to thank the Council and Greg for the repair with a second from Ellen Silverman. This passed by unanimous vote.
- 3. Trail Day Event**

Trail Day - June 3, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Proposal

Goals

Introduce Community members to their hometown trails.

Remove trash from Trails and Streams

Educate Trail users about “leave no Trace” policy

Increase membership to Green Team

Activities

Trail Cleanup

Litter pick up on trail and stream (need 4 team leaders for this activity)

Activities for Children: Fairy Garden Tour (partnership with School). Fairy gardens made by Roosevelt art students will be on trail. The students will give a tour of their creation.

“Leave No Trace” demo and talk. At Compost Display area at School Trailhead (need Speaker)

Environmental Commission Information Table at Compost Display area. Included in this area signups for the green team and for the Adopt the Stream program. (Need two people to be at table)
- 4. 4th of July Environmental Commission involvement:** Ellen Silverman asks if anyone would like to head up. Mary Tulloss offered to co-chair the event. We usually have an information table with games and prizes. Mary Tulloss states maybe we should have a game regarding recycling. Also focus on the Water Story. Mary Tulloss offered to co-chair the event or maybe we can have a team of three.
- 5. Partnering with Borough Council on Stormwater runoff mapping and education (needed for MS4 permit).** Tim Hartley asks if there has been any movement on the adopting of a storm drain.
- 6. Partnering with Borough Council on safe street initiatives, helping with the mapping and fact finding information to encourage a community based decision related to the proposed road work plans, inclusion of physical traffic calming element (speed humps).** Ellen Silverman states she has done a traffic count assessment. She has done it on all streets last week when schools were closed, there was an uptick this past week with schools open. Mary Tullos asks has there been any more discussions on the traffic calming devices. Michael Hamilton responds that it is still in committee, Bob Atwood is heading up the committee.
- 7. Report on the Amphitheater Project.** There is a meeting tomorrow at 3:00pm, several members of the Environmental Commission are members of the committee. Mary Tullos asks if

they are doing anything with a reflecting pool. Michael Hamilton responds not in this round maybe next round. Possibility of also applying for a CDBG Grant for accessibility.

8. Michael Hamilton speaks about the Beavers and how people are going there every day. We have had trouble at the Sewer Treatment Plant, there were blockages caused by the beavers. Thankfully the State and advising that water levels are rising. Last week 2 beavers remediator's came out and cleared out the beaver dams. Water level are down and water is flowing. They saw a 50lb beaver. They chased them down stream. Joe Trammell states there are 2 beaver deceivers downstream. They broke 3 dams in the Assunpink. Michael Hamilton states we have at least 1 baby. They have names the beavers, Franklin, Eleanor and another one female. Joe Trammell also states that he took pictures of the greenery which use to be the swamp, soon you may be able to walk out there. They are changing the ecology.

Public Comment: Michael Merritt, 6 N. Rochdale – On safe streets he wants to reinforce concern just last night someone very impatient with the 35MPH speed and passed the double yellow. Beavers – enjoy them they are taking down some substantial trees. On the Recycling Coordinator I want to thank you for taking such quick action on my question.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Michael Hamilton offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:14 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary