

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

May 17, 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, May 17, 2023 at 7:02 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: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, Tim Hartley, David Teich (arrived at 7:03pm), Michael Ticktin Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, and Ben Johnson

Absent: Erin Schneider

### **Mary Tulloss reads the following:**

#### **Land and People Acknowledgement**

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 areas we call New Jersey. We honor this ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape Nation. May we live in harmony, caring for this sacred land.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**

Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for comments on 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 Mary Tulloss. This passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 19, 2023** – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, minutes with a second from Tim Hartley. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. 2023 Sustainability Summit Session Spotlight.
2. NJDEP Stormwater Program Draft Model Tree Ordinance
3. ANJEC: Punching Out Plastic – Zoom Webinar

4. ANJEC: It's Earth Week!
5. NJDEP: Federal Grant Funding Opportunity – Federal Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grants
6. ANJEC: Local Environmental Matters
7. ANJEC: Climate Mini – Series
8. NJDEP: What's up with NJUCF's 2023 grants this year?
9. ANJEC: Local Environment Matters
10. The Watershed Institute: Mapping Workshop, Thursday May 18, 2023 at 10:00am

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:** Tim Hartley states the Planning Board meeting was canceled, nothing to report.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Michael Hamilton states it was a quick meeting and nothing to report. Ellen Silverman stated that Jeb Shah had some interesting observations about how the town can be more pro-active helping senior citizens and anyone else that should not be living alone. What are our options on helping these folks? Jeb Shah would like to see presentations by the Monmouth County Office on Aging and Adult Protective Services, what they can do and what they can't and what concerned citizens can do. Michael Hamilton states as a retired social worker he contacted a couple other people in the mental health profession who live in town, and put out a feeler to see if there was any interest in getting together informally as an advisory group. Ellen Silverman states that a couple people have approached her and would like to form a group, that if someone can't drive to a store they would know to reach out to this group, to help get what they need. Mary Tulloss states that at Tai Chi they talked about how in the past 3 or 4 people would call each other in the morning to see how they were doing and if anyone needed anything.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

Administrative – No report.

Forest Management – Sam Ashburner reports:

All areas need more mulch. Missing bench has been found, it is further in on the trail towards the sewer treatment plant.

Cemetery to Bike Path: we have a tree down in one of the sections we rerouted. The second section of the rerouted trail looks like the barrier from the old trail has been removed and the old section is still being used, at least by one person.

On the Valley Bike Path, 4 of the large logs now form a setting area for Beaver viewing. The section by the Bike Path that dips down needs some work, perhaps a puncheon.

The section between the School and Tamara needs channels dug out to improve drainage, puncheons need to be leveled in the section closer to the school. We still need to install the Safety no slip tape on the edges of the puncheon and land screw on that same section, since the water runs down the path, not across the path. Note some channels appear to have recently been dug, they are working great.

The section between Tamara and the sewer treatment plant – newly dug channels look great.

Michael Merritt has offered us some 8' 6X6 for the trail, they are used but still have some good in them. While Sam Ashburner was on the trail assessing he was considering where we could use this wood. How about a deck like platform at the turn off section by the Empty Box in the School and Tamara section? This area is used for music performances during the art walk and has two of the art chairs there. The 6X6 would be used as the frame, and we would have to buy wood for the decking. Ellen Silverman adds that in our search for a Forrester she contacted Kevin Schibilia, who is doing Millstone's Tree Inventory about doing Roosevelt's Tree Inventory, she is meeting with him on Thursday, at 5:30pm.

Invasive Plant Species – No report.

Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports that this coming weekend will be doing our monitoring. At last night's Dessert and Discussion, we had our other 2 members of the stream monitoring committee, Corki and Jane Rothfuss, so we were all there. It was their first time hearing Hilary Wilder's Water Story. Mary Tulloss asks if at the council meeting did they say there was a problem with a phosphate's being high at the sewer treatment plant? That is one of the outliers when we are doing our stream monitoring as well. Like Hilary Wilder says what happens in Millstone doesn't stay in Millstone, just wondering if it is run off from farms, why are we having this situation? If we ever meet with the Millstone Environmental Commission; we should discuss. Mary Tulloss asks how is it going with our gauges? Tim Hartley replies that he and councilman Marcher did get together this past weekend and started to do the survey related to that. Steve Macher stated having accurate elevation is a better way to do it, so we started the process and will take time. Is there anybody else that would like to volunteer some time?

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports that there is concern that we are not posting and this is our second deadline that has past, Samantha from Sustainable Jersey asked to let her enter what we have and Ellen Silverman gave her the go ahead. Samantha will then let us know what are points are. What we haven't applied for is the Water Story which will give us the bronze, it hasn't been done yet because it needs to be presented to the council to get those points. Michael Hamilton will get it on the agenda.

Dessert and Discussion/Community Involvement: Dave Teich reports Hilary Wilder gave a presentation of the Water Story and did a great job, there were about a dozen people, numbers are growing. The Dave Teich did a demonstration of building a rain barrel, Ellen Silverman and Dave Teich has attend a rain barrel building workshop which we basically repeated what we seen using some materials that we bought. All were engaged and interested in building rain barrels. Dave Teich will purchase the barrels, they are \$20 for a 55gallon plastic barrel. The video will get placed on the U Tube Channel. Also the desserts were really good.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Borough Council, Environmental Commission, Roosevelt School, Watershed Goals Activities**

1. **Discuss 4<sup>th</sup> of July Environmental Commission** – Mary Tulloss speaks about the games that we got last year from ANJEC, she has attempted to call them and email them but has received no response, she will try again. Steve Taylor states that he has the wheel, the kids liked answering questions and getting the stickers. Mary Tulloss states maybe we can have a team for the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July – Mary Tulloss will be the contact person and asks if

we could get a recycling game. Ellen Silverman states that Jeb stated that Shop Rite has stopped accepting plastic bags however, Home Depot is accepting them. Mary Tulloss states she is still confused on #5 plastics; can we recycle them? Ellen Silverman states yes, and it has been reflected on the county site. The Borough website is linked to the County Recycling Site. Maybe we can put an article in the bulletin with the recycling flyer. We will have literature available at the table during the picnic.

2. **Report on the Amphitheater Project** - Michael Hamilton reports that the committee has met with 2 architects from the firm we contracted with for the design and we did a walk through. It was interesting, they talked about different materials that would be used for the seating, it's not quite as hard as sitting on concrete. It is very close to the wetlands. There are no plans yet, it's still in the development stage, concept plans are due by July 1, 2023.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Graduation gift for Roosevelt graduating class:** Michael Ticktin make a motion to approve a graduation gift to the graduating class of \$50, with a second from Mary Tulloss, all are in favor. Ellen Silverman will present at graduation.
2. **Ellen Silverman discusses the following: Proposed Calendar of Events for Roosevelt Seed Library, Compost Display area and Sustainable Food Practices.** Seed library will be at Ellen Silverman's home. If anyone has any additional information, please forward to Ellen Silverman. Michael Ticktin makes a motion to approve the calendar, with a second from Sam Ashburner, all are in favor.

Before public comment Ellen Silverman states that Michael Ticktin has served as chairperson of the Environmental Commission for quite a long time and would like to take the time to acknowledge and thank Michael Ticktin for all his accomplishments and all that he has done for the Environmental Commission.

### **Public Comment:**

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at 7:59pm

1. Steve Taylor, 5 Oscar Drive – In the water story, the earlier version, there was a comment about the water PH of the stream which was low – our stream is lower than the desired PH is. Is the specification for PH from the Watershed people driven by fly fisherman; my run off causes acidic waters and that's not good, on the other hand all the waters from here south down the Pine Barrens are very acidic naturally, which then we shouldn't worry about the PH in the water. Ellen Silverman asks Mary Tulloss if the watershed people are concern with the PH, Mary Tulloss responds it is very difficult to get the watershed people to even say what's desirable, they didn't tell us and we have asked. Ellen Silverman states than your wondering Hilary Wilder got that wording? Mary Tulloss states it came from the watershed. Steve Taylor again states why did they say that, is it relevant or not? Ellen Silverman asks Mary Tulloss who her contact is, Mary Tulloss responds Jaim and states you can ask for more details.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at 8:03pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Tim Hartley offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:03 P.M.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary