

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 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, June 19, 2023 at 7:05 P.M.

The Roll was called by Chairperson Silverman

ROLL CALL:

Present: Tim Hartley, Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, Ben Johnson

Absent: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, David Teich, Erin Schneider

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.

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 at 7:06pm. Steve Taylor states excellent agenda.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda was closed at 7:07pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion was made by Michael Ticktin to approve the agenda and second was made by Tim Hartley. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 17, 2023 – Chairperson Silverman tables the minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting until the August 16, 2023 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ANJEC – Sail on the Hudson aboard The Sloop Clearwater Day Sails: July 28 – August 6 in Alpine NJ
2. SADC - Preserved Farmland Workshop – Monday, June 12, 2023 from 9:30am-11:30am – Chesterfield Municipal Building Conference Room

3. ANJEC – 2023 Climate Mini-Series <https://www.msn.com/en-us/feed>
4. ANJEC – NJ Wind Works Rally: Harnessing the Wind for a Lasting Renewable Future, June 10, 2023
5. ANJEC – Governor Murphy Announces Landmark Inland Flood Hazard Rules
6. ANJEC – Summer 2023 ANJEC Report
7. US Forest Services – Notice regarding Federal UCF IRA Grant Portal Issues
8. ANJEC – NJ Wind Work Rally – Saturday, June 10, 2023
9. ANJEC – Local Environmental Matters
10. Jersey Water Works – Town Hall Style Opportunities (5 sessions) from 12:00-1:00pm
Tuesday, June 20, Thursday, July 27, Thursday, August 24, Thursday, September 21 and
Thursday, November 9

Chairperson Silverman states that Ben Johnson did attend the ANJEC webinar – Brownfields Financial & Technical Assistance for Municipalities. Ben Johnson states there were many facts, money available for remediation and redevelopment open to public entities and non-profits, there is a \$500 charge to have applications reviewed and there is \$49 million available. Chairperson Silverman states the borough is thinking of putting in sewer/water to the Brownfield site on County Route 571 and they may be money available to do that. Michael Ticktin adds that is correct or the person re-developing the property would have to do it and also the council is waiting to see what happens with the proposed new development in Millstone on Perrineville Road and its impact in Roosevelt. The development is part of Millstone’s affordable housing. Ben Johnsons adds that there is a cap of \$3 million per project, it covers 75% of the business development, 50% of affordable housing and 25% of unrestrictive use. The DEP & EDA are the approving authority.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley reports the one variance on the July 15th agenda, was insufficient so it was pushed to next month. Chairperson Silverman asks about the Planning Board process. Michael Ticktin explains that any Zoning Ordinance passed by the Borough Council goes to the Planning Board to comment on, prior to the Borough Council adopting said Ordinance. Tim Hartley states that the Environmental Commission cannot be involved when a specific lot coverage variance is being considered by Planning Board. The commission is, however, welcome to submit any proposed changes to lot coverage limits as defined in the Zoning Ordinance that they feel might benefit the Borough.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative: No Report.
- Forest Management: Ellen Silverman reports we do have been contacted by NJUCF and reminded us that we need a certain number of educational points to maintain our community forest management plan and remind us that we need a Core member, someone to take the core course who is an employee or an elected official, and is still available still this year. Michael Ticktin asks who is considered an elected official, Ellen will check with them and get back to Michael.

- Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor reports that he has walked from Valley to Rochdale and notice a tree down. During the 4th of July celebration we gave away over 50 milk weed plants.
- Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports that at the end of June; Jane & Corkie & Mary went to the Watershed Institute for our yearly quality assurance test, this was everything, we passed. Some of our equipment was older and was replaced. This past weekend, Mary was on a trip and Jane's father was sick, so it was the first time in over a year that we couldn't do our testing. Mary stated at the 4th. of July BBQ she met Kevin, who lives on Pine Drive and he works for the DEP. Mary Tulloss will check to see if he would like to join the stream monitoring group. She told him about the Environmental Commission, as did Michael Ticktin in the past, he does travel a lot.
Hilary Wilder reports that she and Ellen Silverman have signed up for bacteria count stream testing – the training is virtual. They will then collect water samples, each Sunday for five weeks. These samples must be kept cool and brought to the watershed by 1:00pm on Sunday. They have not been told yet where the locations are but thinks there are 3 or 4 sites. Hoping everything will become clearer once we receive training. Tim Hartley asks if there are any updates on the gauges. Tim Hartley will contact Steve Macher and ask for an update.
- Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman states July 27, 2023 it is the last time to submit points for this year, she and Hilary Wilder have submitted 30 more points and can apply for the bronze. We have 20 more points to go – we have 2 actions that we are applying for; 1- documentation from the sustainable plan that was adopted by our Borough Council in April, 2 – they are seeking to see on our website that at Planning Board meeting the public can comment. They want to see it outside of the agenda.
- Dessert and Discussion: Ellen Silverman states they did not meet last night.
- Report on the 4th. July – Mary Tulloss reports that it went very well. Ben Johnson, Mary Tulloss, Steve Taylor, Dave Teich and Michael Ticktin all manned the table; people were constantly coming to the table. Michael Ticktin states that his 4-year old grandson stated it was the most fun ever. Mary Tulloss also states that she got the ANJEC game, which is not as popular as our other games, ANJEC maybe more geared to adults than children. Next year we need more games geared towards children, we have quite a few tattoos left.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on EC mission statement and setting goals for 2023: Ellen Silverman states that at last month's meeting we handed out Mission Statement and Goals and asks everyone if they read over it and is there anything that needs to be changed, is anything over ambitious? Ellen Silverman read the Mission Statement:

Mission Statement

1. To protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment within our jurisdiction.

2. To promote sustainable practices and responsible resource management for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. To advocate for environmental justice, ensuring equitable access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for all communities.
4. To engage and educate the public on environmental issues and foster a sense of environmental stewardship.

Goals:

1. Conservation and Habitat Protection:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and protect critical habitats and ecosystems within our jurisdiction. • Support initiatives to conserve biodiversity and protect endangered species. • Promote sustainable land and water management practices.
2. Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce air and water pollution through the enforcement of regulations and implementation of pollution prevention strategies. • Promote the use of clean and renewable energy sources. • Advocate for safe and responsible waste management practices.
3. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within our jurisdiction. • Support efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. • Promote energy efficiency, conservation, and the use of renewable energy sources.
4. Environmental Education and Outreach:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize educational programs and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues. • Collaborate with schools, community groups, and businesses to promote environmental literacy. • Encourage public participation and engagement in environmental decision-making processes.
5. Policy Advocacy and Collaboration:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for environmentally friendly policies and regulations at the local, regional, and national levels. • Collaborate with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to address shared environmental challenges. • Provide expert advice and recommendations to local government on environmental matters.

Ellen Silverman asks everyone to comment and what we should pursue on these goals.

Motion was made by Michael Ticktin to approve the Mission Statement and second was made by Mary Tulloss. This passed by unanimous vote, non-opposed.

Tim Harley asks if Ellen Silverman had any luck in seeing if any of the other members could help with the stream gauges? Ellen Silverman states Ben Johnson had volunteer, but has not

been contacted yet. Tim Hartley said he will contact Steve Macher about this for more information.

Tim Hartley asks about surplus veggies – is that happening this year? Ellen Silverman answers that she and Sharyn Waltz; Crop Swap at Solar Village, have spoken about it and they will probably be doing again this year. Last year the leftovers from the Crop Swap went to the Solar Village community room to be given away. Michael Ticktin states that most people put their own stuff in the refrigerator at Solar Village.

Tim Hartley asked if there is any update on the recyclable items, and asks about metal, plastics, numbers 1 and 2? Hilary Wilder responds that on those number 1 and 2 in pourable bottles, if the neck is smaller than the bottle itself then they can be recycled. The company that Monmouth County contracted with can now take number 5 also, no matter what the shape is. Tin and aluminum cans have always been acceptable. Mary Tulloss states that maybe we can post in the Bulletin what's on the website. Michael Ticktin states we need something from the County that states what is accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:00p.m.

Mary Tulloss asks about the mushroom walk, there are a lot of mushrooms out there, so whenever you want – just contact him whenever he is ready. People will be interested in this event.

Ben Johnson states that ANJEC is having a webinar on August 1, 2023 NJDEP Inland Flood Protection Rule Informational Webinar.

Hilary Wilder states that there will be a Webinar from the DEP on July 24, 2023 from 10:00am to 11:30pm - State Flood Plain Administrator and Stormwater Management Program Manager will provide a presentation followed by a Q&A.

Mary Tulloss also states that at the 4th, of July BBQ 4 more storm drain were adopted.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:05p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Tim Hartley offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:05p.m.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary