

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

December 20, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Vice Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7:00pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, Dave Teich (arrives at 7:03pm), Michael Ticktin, Ben Johnson

Absent: Tim Hartley, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, 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.

**Michael Ticktin 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**

Vice Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at 7:02pm.

No Public Comment.

Vice Chairperson Ticktin closes the public portion for the agenda was closed at 7:03pm.

### **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.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest – November 29, 2023
2. **Sustainable Jersey for Schools** – Unique Technical Assistance Opportunity
3. **ANJEC** – Tell Governor Murphy to extend the Corporate Business Tax
4. **ANJEC** – Jersey Water Works Annual Conference – December 13, 2023

5. ANJEC – Environmental News Digest – December 13, 2023
6. ANJEC – 100% Clean Energy Rally – December 18, 2023, 9:00am at the State House

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:**

- Maria Dellasala states that Tim Hartley asked her to report that the Planning Board passed the Winery Ordinance and sent it back to the Borough Council. Also please think about how the Commission would like to move forward on the tree reports.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Michael Hamilton reports the Borough Council approved on second reading Ordinance 23-16 which approved Wineries as a permitted use in the R-AG/400 zone. A discussion was held on the hazardous trees in town and how to move forward with the report received from the tree expert. The borough council approved dollars received from the Fund for Roosevelt for the Amphitheater project, very appreciative. The tree expert reported his finding before the borough council, we all received a copy. The borough is in good shape financially; we are generating surplus from the water/sewer fund. Michael Ticktin speaks about the street tree inventory and that it was a report on borough trees only and no trees on private property. Ben Johnson asks about the open space trees? Michael Ticktin states this report was only on street trees, municipally owned property. Michael Hamilton states we are encouraging Christmas Tree drop off at the entrance to the water/sewer treatment plant – they will be accepted until January 31, 2024. Also we have received the Environmental Commission Green Team report. The Borough Engineer is doing some extensive work on the wastewater treatment plant on the trickling filters, it's supposed to be a 2.2-million-dollar project, it won't be complete for a couple years. The Borough Council has allotted initially \$100,000.00 for the start of the project, unfortunately there are no grants available.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Administrative: No report.
- Forest Management: No Report.
- Invasive Plant Species: No report.
- Stream Monitoring: No Report.
- Sustainable Jersey: No Report.
- Dessert and Discussion: Dave Teich our last meeting was November 28, 2023, we talked about how to mitigate food waste. We have a couple new people who have become regulars, we are starting to plan for 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Goals Committee: Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Vice Chairperson Michael Ticktin opens the public comment at: 7:14pm.

1. Steve Taylor – reporting on trails – Michel Merritt has been working on rebuilding – moving the puncheons and adding new puncheons, 4 new sections were added yesterday and today. A session was scheduled for tomorrow, which has been cancelled.

Vice Chairperson Michael Ticktin closes the public comment at: 7:15pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 15, 2023** – Michael Hamilton made a motion to approve the November 15, 2023 subject to change with additions to come from Mary Tulloss, minutes with a second from Sam Ashburner. Minutes we passed by unanimous vote.

Ben Johnson states he has read the Forest Inventory Assessmet; an overview - the consultant recommended there being a long term - thinning out of trees in certain areas; around the stream bed of Empty Box Brook, some areas in the perimeter of the greenbelt behind the school and some spots here and there behind homes on Pine Drive and Tamara Dive. There is a documented study by Heather Gracie.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Hamilton motioned to adjourn Sam Ashburner offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:20pm.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary