

-ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 17, 2024

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Ellen Silverman on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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.

SWEARING IN OF NEW AND REAPPOINTED MEMBERS: **Ben Johnson and Michael Hamilton.** Chairperson, Ellen Silverman swears in Michael Hamilton and Ben Johnson.

The Roll was called by Secretary Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mike Hamilton, Ben Johnson, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Sam Ashburner, Tim Hartley

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY:

Chairperson Silverman asks for nomination for Vice-Chair, Michael Ticktin nominates Michael Hamilton as Vice-Chairperson to the Environmental Commission, with a second from Ben Johnson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairperson Silverman nominates Maria Dellasala, as Secretary to the Environmental Commission, with a second from Michael Ticktin. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024 AND JANUARY 2025: February 21, 2024; March 20, 2024; April 17, 2024; May 15, 2024; June 19, 2024; July 17, 2024; August 21, 2024; September 18, 2024; October 16, 2024; November 20, 2024; December 18, 2024; January 15, 2025. Motion made by Michael Ticktin to accept dates as stated, with a second from Dave Teich. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Environmental Commission 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.

Goals: Short term goals for the next 18 months approved (approved by EC on 11/15/23)

Environmental Education and Outreach of these subjects:

1. PFA'S are "forever" chemicals that disrupt the immune system and are carcinogenic.
2. Investigate Community Solar or other programs that allow households to use renewable energy without installing solar panels on their homes. Learn more about Clean Choice energy which allows a resident to select renewable energy as the source of energy for their home. Present results at a community meeting.
3. Advocate for safe and responsible waste management practices. Partnering with the Recycle Coordinator to get more information out on what is recyclable. Also encourage use of eco-friendly products

Michael Ticktin reads the: 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.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:

Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at 7:12pm.

No public comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda at 7:13pm

RESIGNATION:

Resignation email dated December 20, 2023 from Mary Tulloss:

Ellen,

I have given it a lot of thought, and I believe that I need to step off of the EC when my term expires at the end of this year. I am on several boards in Roosevelt and outside and I am just finding it hard to

keep up with everything. We have been unable to find someone to help Rod with tasks involving the herbarium and I would like to be able to help him with that.

I admire and respect all that the Environment Commission is doing and wish everyone well. I would like to continue working with Corkey and Jane on stream monitoring.

My Best,

Mary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 20, 2023 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023, minutes with a second from Dave Teich. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED MINUTES: November 15, 2023 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the amended November 15, 2023, minutes with a second from Dave Teich. Minutes were passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Sustainable Jersey for Schools** – Announcing a New Round of Community Energy Grants
2. **ANJEC** – Top 5 reasons to give to ANJEC from Environmental Commissioner Feedback around the State
3. **Watershed Institute** – Registration for the Seventh Annual NJ Watershed Conference, Regional Collaboration for Our Watersheds, February 23, 2023 at The College of New Jersey (Hybrid)
4. **ANJEC** – Thanking Roosevelt Borough for its encouragement and support in 2023
5. **ANJEC** – Environmental New Digest, January 3, 2024
6. **Sustainable Jersey** – Apply for a NJBPU Community Energy Planning Grant
7. **NJDEP** – Updated CFMP Guidelines (Community Forest Management Plan)
8. **ANJEC** – Stormwater Retrofit Resources Virtual Information Session, Tuesday, January 23, 2024 from noon-1:00pm
9. **NJ Department of Agriculture** – Spotted Lanternfly Treatment Funding

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: C/Hamilton states there was not a lot of action at the Council meeting last night, we received a resignation letter from Bob Atwood for his position of the Borough Council. The Democratic Committee has 30 days to come up with 3 names to put before the council to decide who will fill that vacancy. If you know of anyone interested have them get in touch with either Michael Hamilton or Peggy Malkin. Carmella Roberts has people out on the street working on Stormwater Management mapping.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: None

Forest Management: Michael Merritt, 6 S. Rochdale Ave. reports on the Woodland Trail projects, 1. We inventoried and straightened up the tool shed, found a large amount of tools in bad shape. We installed hooks and now the tools are all hanging, so nothing is sitting on the floor. Michael took all the tools and wire brushed them and oiled them and sharpened them. Michael handed out photos and an inventory list of the tools. He found an original wood handle shovel. 2. We are working on the puncheons between Rochdale and Tamara, some in the heavy rain this past summer and fall floated down stream and we patched those. 24 feet of puncheons have been added. 3. Signs – Dave Teich and Michael Merritt have been working on replacing the Woodland Trail Sign, there are 9 of them & 2 sets of no dumping signs – we did an inventory check on which signs need new posts, (3) in total. We contacted call before we dig – everything got marked out. We may be able to keep some of the old one as spares. Michael Hamilton did thank us at a recent council meeting so everyone is aware that we are working on this. Michael Hamilton also reported that Jeb Shahn went with her chainsaw and took care of one of the big

trees that had fallen across the trail and cut it up. Michael Hamilton states that we will be working on the municipal budget soon, so if you come up with materials that are need to do this work, let him know.

Invasive Plant Species: None

Stream Monitoring: Ellen Silverman reports that again this year she will be reporting on the street salts monitoring.

Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman states we will report when we have more to report.

Dessert and Discussion: Dave Teich reports we did not meet in December and we need to come up with a schedule for 2024.

Goals Committee: Ben Johnson states that nothing much to report. We have started making a community outreach calendar, on that calendar we will have 3 articles on education, the article that was written on recycling counts towards the 3 articles.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Michael Merritt gives an update on recycling, he confirmed with Dan Specht, Millstone Township Recycling Coordinator, we can now recycle all shapes of #1 and #2 plastic. Mr. Merritt has asked Ana Debevec to get an e-blast out to the residents. Mr. Merritt spoke Mazza recycling, which is the company who handles all of Monmouth County Recycling – they are increasing the materials that can be collected, but they haven't told anyone. Mr. Merritt has reached out to the Monmouth County Recycling Coordinator and Dan Specht, who again is Millstone Township's Recycling Coordinator, (his information is on our website, he can be emailed at his millstone email address and he will get back to you) who is Roosevelt's Recycling Coordinator, we need to maximize on what can be recycled. Michael Hamilton asks if there are only an after market for #1 and #2 recyclables, is that the only thing profitable for them? Michael Merritt really does not know.
- Recycling of Plastic Trex Challenge – Ellen Silverman states that she is a member of the Ocean County Master Gardeners and they are working on this recycle project, basically if you have plastic bags they are collecting those and bubble wrap, if you get it to Ellen she will bring it in for this year. Basically if you have a program that is interested in doing the same thing and you collect a thousand pounds or more of this type of plastic they will donate a trex bench to a non-profit.
- Tree Inventory Video – The members watch the Forestry Inventory Assessment and the Street Tree Inventory.

Chairman Silverman reads a letter to the Environmental Commission members that she would like to send to the Borough Council with the following concerns:

1. The formal presentation of the Forestry Inventory Assessment and the Street Tree Inventory of 2023 to the Planning Board.

2. A request for the Green Team to collaborate with the Public Works committee on maintenance of street trees.
3. A recommendation to form a Roosevelt Tree Committee that will sustain our trees in the future. – Michael Ticktin – doesn't know if it's a good idea to call for another commission, we have the Environmental Commission and they should welcome others to join us. Ellen Silverman states this would be more of a focus group. Discussion continues on who should take the lead. Dave Teich recommends a presentation to bring groups together, also bring to a dessert and discussion meeting. Ellen Silverman asks Michael Hamilton to get the video on the council agenda. Ellen Silverman asks what kind of changes would we like to make to the letter. Michael Hamilton thinks it would be best to have bullet items on the letter (what actions would you like to see the Mayor and Council take). Michael Ticktin will make an attempt to re-write the letter.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:35pm

1. Michael Merritt, 6 S. Rochdale Ave – suggests that your goals to have a standing group of members to help decided immediately what actions to take and to be involved with ongoing maintenance and engage them to help brainstorm how that should be structured, to build interest as an ongoing action.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:40pm

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn with a second from Dave Teich. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:40 P.M.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary