

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, July 17, 2024, 7:05 P.M.**

**Roosevelt Borough Hall, 33 North Rochdale Avenue**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Vice Chairperson Michael Hamilton on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:02 P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, Ben Johnson, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin

**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 January 22, 2024 and the Times of Trenton on January 25, 2024 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.

#### **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 Hamilton 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 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 Hamilton to approve the agenda and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at 7:04pm.

No public comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda at 7:05pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Ben Johnson to approve the June 19, 2024, minutes with a second from Michael Hamilton. The minutes passed by 2 Ayes, Michael Hamilton and Ben Johnson and 2 abstentions from Sam Ashburner and Ellen Silverman.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **ANJEC** – Sail on the Hudson River aboard NJ’s Official Tall Ship, The AJ Meerwald. Friday, July 12, - Sunday July 14
2. **ANJEC** – ANJEC News
3. **ANJEC** – Action Alert: Ask your Legislators to Support the Environment in the State Budget
4. **The Watershed** – Proposing two dates for their next meeting, September 11, 2024 at 5:00pm or September 18, 2024 at 5:00 pm
5. **Sustainability Jersey** – Sustainability in Action: 5 Success Stories
6. **NJ DEP** – Success! Environmental Funding Restored in NJ Budget
7. **Roberts Engineering** – Letter from Carmella Roberts regarding sanitary laterals at 33 and 36 Clarksburg Road
8. **NJ DEP** – 2024 NJUCF Awards
9. **ANJEC** – Environmental New Digest – July 3, 2024
10. **State of New Jersey** – NJ Updates: Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and more
11. **ANJEC** – Fireflies: An Illuminating Appreciation Event, Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 7:00pm-9:00pm, Washington Township
12. **ANJEC** – 2024 environmental Congress, Friday, September 27, 2024 from 9:00am-4:00pm, Rowan University
13. **Tim Hartley** - Resignation email
14. **ANJEC** – ANJEC’S 2024 Citizen Scientist Series Traveling HABS, Monday, July 29, 2024 at 7:00pm, Webinar via Zoom
15. **The Watershed Institute** – July 2024 Watershed Professionals Newsletter

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:** None

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Michael Hamilton reports that he did not attend the past Council meeting however at the prior meeting we did introduce the Municipal Budget, second reading and public hearing will take place on August 5, 2024. At that same meeting the Council introduced a bond ordinance for the Amphitheater, second reading and public hearing will be on

August 5, 2024. Input from the public will be greatly appreciated. The budget is well balanced; a line item for \$5,000.00 has been added to the budget for hazardous tree removal. Ellen Silverman states that quotes are being solicited for the tree removal. There is no increase on water/sewer utility rates. Discussion takes place on the environmental commission budget and also the proper way to maintain the trails and the Assunpink, we also need approval from the DEP (Fish & Wildlife). Ellen Silverman also states we need an engineering plan on the hydraulics in that area and we still need the Stormwater Map from the Engineer. Ellen Silverman states we are willing to help in any way.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- **Administrative:** No report.
- **Forest Management:** No report Ellen Silverman asks how are we doing with education? Sam Ashburner states I am going to send a few articles. The bulletin doesn't have enough of articles for August, so let's get them our articles. It's more important for the Roosevelt Art Project. Mary Tulloss states you can do door to door direct. Ellen Silverman reminds everyone there is a stage on the trail, enjoy it, it is between the trail head and Tamara Drive.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Steve Taylor reports at the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July picnic; table was set up in the usual location with the Environmental game of fortune and the insect/animal/flower decorative transfers. It brought some adults and kids to the table' the kids learned some things. We gave away 6 showy milkweeds, 6 turtleheads, 3 native azaleas and 4 ferns, we also distributed half a dozen cucumbers compliments of the RPA student garden. The table has the car wash pollution flyer, not much interest. Several people asked what the REC did. Dave Teich and Steve Taylor listed some of the Commission's activities: trail maintenance, stream monitoring, steam cleanup, litter pickup, etc. We should update the brochure from 2021. Thanks to Dave, Emily, Anne and Mary Tulloss for their support at the table.
- **Stream Monitoring:** Mary Tulloss reports we recently had an email from the Watershed Institute that said we had a nice map that with places and data collected. You can now click on it and see your grades. On the categories that you are monitoring. Our temperature was considered excellent, turbidity was fair, PH poor, however, they also have a little information about if your stream has drainage from wood areas, then your PH is between 5.5 and 6.5 and that is where we fall. Salt/oxygen is good, nitrate is excellent, phosphate is poor. When Mary Tulloss looked into reason why, examples were: excessive plant growth and plants decomposing. Also on the phosphate score on the Watershed's report card for nearby streams and lakes, all she saw were ranked poor.
- **Sustainable Jersey:** Hilary Wilder reports we are holding well, she met with the school and hope they wait till May 2025 to start some of their projects. We start again in January 2025 accumulating points. We met with the school and the Watershed Institute about the rain garden, the Watershed Institute will pay for the materials for rain garden or if that doesn't work a pollinator garden for the school. We also spoke about educational things and stream watch for children. Hilary Wilder registered for the Stream Watch for Juniors, for the kids.

- **Dessert and Discussion:** Dessert and Discussion was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. the topic was “Herb Gardens”. There were no attendees. July 23 will be our next Dessert and Discussion on “Benefits of Bats”.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman states this is where we put a call out for articles for the Borough Bulletin, (Sam Ashburner will be sending in his article on birds).

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Ellen Silverman states she is glad all went well at the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July picnic. Michael Hamilton states he has a new idea; there used to be humming birds in the little area when you come in borough hall, there is nothing there now, maybe a nice area to consider doing something. Maybe we can put a little path way in the back, maybe a meditation path and a picnic table – could also be a Scout project.
- Ben Johnson asks about the hazardous tree bid process? Ellen Silverman states three quotes have been received, 2 were very close in number – it was narrowed down, but have not heard anything else. Ellen Silverman asks Michael Hamilton who she needs to report a dead tree to? Michael Hamilton responds to report it to Ana Debevec.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 7:49pm

1. Mary Tulloss, 21 Lake Drive – states that she heard from Lawrence Mendies that those very tall towers (which belong to the power company) they are going to be replaced as part of the infrastructure project, they are drilling test sites 100 feet deep to see where the water table is. They are doing it every 100 feet; Mr. Mendies also stated that people are coming out at night looking for bats. He was not notified, he went out when he seen people to ask what was going on. Ms. Tulloss asks if the Environmental Commission was notified? Ellen Silverman stated maybe they notified Borough Hall, they have not notified the Environmental Commission.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 7:51pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Hamilton motioned to adjourn, Sam Ashburner offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:51pm

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary