

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 7:07 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, December 18, 2024 at 7:05P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Dave Teich

**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

Sam Ashburner reads:

**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 Ticktin** 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 7:09pm. No public comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda at 7:09pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 18, 2024 – Michael Ticktin** made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024, minutes with a second from **Sam Ashburner**. Minutes were unanimously passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 16, 2024 – Michael Hamilton** made a motion to approve the October 16, 2024, minutes with a second from **Sam Ashburner**. Minutes were unanimously passed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **ANJEC** – Fall 2024 ANJEC Report
2. **NJDEP** – USDA Forest Service Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Program Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Applications
3. **The Watershed Institute** – Watershed Professionals Newsletter – November 1, 2024
4. **ANJEC** – Environmental New Digest – October 17, 2024
5. **The Land Conservancy of NJ** – TLCNJ Honored with 2024 National Land Trust Excellence Award
6. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest – October 30, 2024
7. **NJDEP** – NJUCF News & Updates November 1, 2024
8. **NJDEP** – NIHHS Heat Monitoring & Mitigation Funding
9. **NJ DCA** – NJ DCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant
10. **ANJEC** – ANJEC Statement on the 2024 Election
11. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest, October 30, 2024
12. **Land Conservancy of New Jersey** – Fall Newsletter
13. **ANJEC** – Fighting Artificial Turf in New Jersey
14. **ANJEC** – Dark Sky New Jersey – Tuesday, December 10, 2024 Zoom Webinar
15. **NJDEP** – NJUCF News and Updates 12/1/24
16. **ANJEC** – One Day, One Planet, One Big Impact – Let’s Do This!

- 17. **Sustainable Jersey** – Annual Luncheon Recap & New Grant & Technical Assistance Opportunities
- 18. **The Watershed Institute** – Registration for the 8<sup>th</sup>. Annual New Jersey Watershed Conference
- 19. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest – December 5, 2024
- 20. **ANJEC** – The ANJEC Report

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:** None

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Michael Hamilton reports at the Borough Council received a grant for Improvements to Lake and S. Valley Road in the amount of \$135,910 which is additional to previous years grant. The Council will decide what work needs to be done along Lake Drive, S. Valley Road and Spruce Lane. There are new DEP regulations on man holes. There were some budget transfers but that is normal this time of year. C/Hamilton states he went to the Dark Sky Seminar; and it was interesting, he learned about how to regulate light pollution and learned a lot of interesting things about light pollution – how it effects nocturnal animals, night time pollinators, bird migration, and that there is also a connection to various cancers. How to regulate lighting in new developments, they did not address how you would enforce it. Ellen Silverman asks if C/Hamilton would like to write an article for the bulletin. C/Hamilton states they did say you can ask you public utilities to make sure your street lights are shielded.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- **Administrative:** No report.
- **Forest Management:** Ellen Silverman reports on the Trail Assessment Walk; Trail Assessment Walk 12/17/202  
 Section A: (Waste Treatment Plant to Tamara Dr.)  
 1 tree is down and two standing dead trees next to path  
 Most puncheons need to leveled one is damaged and needs base replace on one side  
 Section B: Tamara Dr. to School trailhead.  
 Older puncheons need to be leveled.  
 Some deck boards on puncheons need to be replaced.  
 Section C: Pine Dr. to School playground.  
 Tree down  
 Section of path near Pine Dr. frequently to muddy after rain to pass through  
 Invasive plants  
 Section D: (571 to Valley bike path)  
 Currently no trail structure issue.  
 Section E: (Valley bike path to Cemetery)  
 Invasive Plant focus on trailhead areas:  
 1. Waste Treatment plant. Monitor invasives in this area. Spread out mulch pile.  
 2. Tamara Dr. Monitor invasives in this area. Spread out mulch pile. Consult with town about erosion from vehicles driving on soften area on side of the road. Could be a good place for stone or some way to block it from vehicles.  
 3. School, including Amphitheatre. Mulch, prune back shrubs, and request (through Ana) that the landscape crew does not leave branches on the tree line, but further in in established piles to allow for easy invasive plant removal. Use up mulch pile.

4. Rochdale monitor invasives along road side from the Deli parking lot to stream drainage bridge.
5. Valley bike path. Monitor invasives and spread-out existing mulch pile.
6. Large section of multiflora rose in Section D, between Rochdale and Valley bike path.

Action for 2025

1. Walk thorough to check where stream channels are and possible improvements on the flow path around the trail. For both section A, between waste treatment plant and Tamara. and B, Tamara and School.
2. Schedule a stream walks to evaluate the stream health and clean up large trash.
3. Plan path improvements for section A.
4. New puncheon run for section B.
5. Plan path improvements for section C.

Sam Ashburner reports: 6 new birdhouses were delivered. 4 bluebird houses were prebuilt leaving only 2 owl boxes to be assembled. All 6 should be on the trail before Spring. On October 28 the birdhouse from Frank was installed near the school trail head. Michael Merritt, Ellen Silverman, Steve Taylor and Jeb Shahn and two hikers moved new puncheon materials on the trail. Since our last meeting over 25 feet of puncheons have been added to the trail – and thanks everyone involved.

- **Invasive Plant Species:** Ellen Silverman reports we did a work party by the Amphitheater, we picked up a lot of stuff but there is more work to be done.
- **Stream Monitoring:** Ellen Silverman reports the street salt monitoring – kits have just been received and Ellen will be monitoring on County 1 and also monitor where the other monitoring is taking place; it will give us readings for both Empty Box and Rocky Brook. The monitoring that Mary, Corki and Jane are doing is going fine.
- **Sustainable Jersey:** Hilary Wilder reports will start again in January 2025. We easily can get 65 out of 150; we will also some carry over 20 points which will leave 130 points for us to get. One of the new action we are hoping we can do is actions around wildfire protection – working with the Fire Department; also NJ DEP also Assunpink setting up plans for what you would do.
- **Dessert and Discussion:** Ellen Silverman reports the last event was to be in November but since the ceiling fell we had to cancel. We will no longer have these meetings.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman reports we need to re-schedule our Joint Meeting with Millstone Township and the Watershed Institute. We generally have 5 Borough Bulletins that come out please consider writing articles.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rescheduling of joint meeting of Millstone and Roosevelt EC for The Watershed Institute presentation on regional watershed improvement plan. Ben Johnson will check with the School to see if the school will be available if this room is not. Ellen Silverman will check with the Watershed Institute. If the meeting is moved it has to be re-noticed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

End of Year draft - Ellen Silverman has sent everyone a copy, the commission members reviewed and discussed.

Budget items/Final Expenditures:

Little library box – Michael Hamilton makes a motion to buy 2 additional Free Library Box Kits, not to exceed \$650, with a second from Michael Ticktin. The motion passed unanimously  
Roosevelt Seed Library Box is doing well - Dave Teich is making stickers for them.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 7:50pm

No Public Comment

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 7:50pm

**ADJOURNMENT: Michael Hamilton** motioned to adjourn, **Michael Ticktin** offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:50pm

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary