

## **-ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

January 15, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairman Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 7:02 P.M.

### **SWEARING IN OF NEW AND REAPPOINTED MEMBERS:**

Secretary, Maria Dellasala swears in: Dave Teich, Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Kathleen Murphy (Alt 1), Arielle Debira (Alt 2)

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

Mayor Malkin introduces and gives a brief background of new members; Arielle Debira, Kate Murphy, Lawrence Mendies and Maureen Parrott. Mayor Malkin also explains some new requirements regarding Affordable Housing for the Borough.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Ben Johnson, Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Kathleen Murphy, Arielle Debira

Absent: Sam Ashburner

**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. Forever Chemicals are PFAS 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

## **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.

The Commission discuss the Land and People Acknowledgement statement and decided that at a future date it will be discussed further.

Maureen Parrott asks if the Environmental Commission has by-laws

## **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY**

Chairman Ticktin asks for nomination for Vice-Chair, **Ben Johnson** nominates **Sam Ashburner** as Vice-Chairperson to the Environmental Commission, with a second from **Maureen Parrott**. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Maureen Parrott** nominates **Maria Dellasala**, as Secretary to the Environmental Commission, with a second from **Kathleen Murphy**. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025 AND JANUARY 2026: February 19, 2025; March 19, 2025; April 16, 2025; May 21, 2025; June 18, 2025; July 16, 2025; August 20, 2025; September 17, 2025; October 15, 2025; November 19, 2025; December 17, 2025; January 21, 2026.**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Motion was made by **Maureen Parrott** to approve the Meeting Schedule listed on the agenda for 2025 and the first meeting of 2026, and a second was made by **Kathleen Murphy**. Meeting Schedule for 2025 was unanimously passed.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion was made by **Kathleen Murphy** to approve the agenda and second was made by **Dave Teich**. Agenda was unanimously passed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Ticktin opens the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:21pm.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:21pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 18, 2024 – Carry to February 19, 2025 meeting.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **ANJEC** – Welcome to Winter – Connect to Nature this Holiday Season
2. **ANJEC** – Thriving Through Change – Opportunities for Local Climate Action
3. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF News and Updates 1/1/2025
4. **ANJEC**- Environmental News Digest, January 8, 2025
5. **ANJEC** – January Monthly Digest
6. **ANJEC** – Protect Wharton State Forest

## **REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None**

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: No Report.** M/Malkin states that Lawrence’s wife is on the Planning Board so many they can share information and he can report back to the Environmental Commission. M/Malkin reports the Council held its re-organization meeting on January 6, 2025 and had a presentation in Executive session by Thomas Planning regarding the Borough’s Affordable Housing obligation. C/Hamilton resigned from the Borough Council and the Environmental Commission. At the Planning Board meeting last night there was a lot of discussion about the house being built at 5 Cedar Court, which did get approval. 6 Cedar Court had already submitted their application which was approved, the houses will no longer be attached. Michelle Donato not happy with our housing/zoning ordinances, the Planning Board will do a re-examination of our ordinances.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Administrative – Nothing to report.
- Forest Management – No report.  
Maureen Parrott asks about the committees and what kind of work is being done.
- Invasive Plant Species – Michael Ticktin states that Steve Taylor has mentioned that the week from February 24 – 28 is Invasive Plant Species Week. Maureen Parrott asks if they are trying to eliminate certain trees? It’s eliminating Invasive Plant Species on Public Lands to make room for the native species that we want to grow. Maureen Parrott asks what is the purpose of having that as a committee? Michael Ticktin responds - it’s to get those people who want to work those projects together and get it done. Its action oriented. Maureen Parrott suggests that the newsletter be placed on the website along with going out in the mail. On the year end year report it speaks about the Facebook page, it should be on the website – everything we do should be there because some people do not have Facebook. Michael Ticktin agrees.
- Stream Monitoring – Mary Tulloss explains how for the past 4 years we have been monitoring the stream at Empty Box Brook with the Watershed Institute. We collect data and the quality of the water going into the tributary. There are three people who collect the samples, Corki, Jane and Mary. We monitor on the third weekend of every month. We would like some more volunteers – Mary will put together a flyer to place on the Borough website to recruit new members. We have a training session at the Watershed Institute. Mary explains the types of tests that they perform.
- Sustainable Jersey – Hilary Wilder is working on. Mayor and Council needs to approve.
- Goals Committee

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Maureen Parrott asks about the budget and why the Environmental Commission has not used the whole budget. Suggests that the path by the school which is very muddy – that we purchase planks to be placed on the ground. It is explained that the whole budget is used every year, and how the budget is broken down. We purchased additional items at the end of the year. Ben Johnson explains that the trail by the school is problematic and not a simple solution.

The Commission members have a lengthy discussion on hazardous trees. And who is responsible for taking down hazardous trees. Maureen Parrott will speak with Sam Ashburner with helping out with the trails.

Ben Johnson asks about being reimbursed for a webinar that costs \$21. Dave Teich motions to approve the reimbursement with a second from Maureen Parrott. The motion is approved unanimously.

Lawrence Mendies mentions that the towers, the First Energy towers that run through the town. They will be removing them and recently they put cages up to remove the bats. The bats are beneficial to organic farming. First Energy has stated that they are planning on expanding the easement. The commission have a discussion of the right of way, the bats (advocacy groups), tagging trees. This new project will be expanding from 75 feet to 280 feet. The Borough will be receiving documentation from First Energy.

Ben Johnson speaks about the annual report on community forestry which is due on February 15, 2025 and will send all members a copy. Ben Johnson also gives each member a copy of an Environmental Glossary.

Possible joint meeting in March with Millstone Township and the Watershed Institute regarding MS4.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Ticktin opens the public comment at: 8:23P.M.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the public comment at: 8:23P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Kate Murphy motioned to adjourn, Arielle Debira offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:23P.M.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary