

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 21, 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, May 21, 2025 at 7:11pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Michael Ticktin, Kathleen Murphy

Absent: Sam Ashburber, Ben Johnson, Dave Teich, Arielle Debira

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 and the Times of Trenton on January 30, 2025 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

The Commission has a discussion on the Land and People Acknowledgement statement and it is a reminder of the people who were here before us and it should stay.

Land and People Acknowledgement

Michael Ticktin reads: 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 **Kathleen Murphy** to approve the agenda and second was made by **Maureen Parrott**. Agenda was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:

Chairman Ticktin opens the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:12pm.

1. Lucy Craig, 39 N. Valley Road – States that she spoke at the Borough Council meeting regarding the Wildlife Ordinance and asked that the Ordinance be brought before the Environmental Commission. She has shared information on Ally Cat Allies and feral cat population and why the ordinance will not work. She has found another ordinance that might work better which includes TNR. She has read on the Department of Health's site about free roaming and feral cats. Ms. Craig feels we should be able to manage cat colonies and adds that we should have community involvement to help manage these colonies. Ms. Craig speaks about the cats that have been picked up in the town and that cost, which is \$1400.00. Ms. Craig states she would volunteer and if we can get additional volunteers to help pick up these cats instead of Animal Control, we would be able to get the cats spay/neuter at a cost of \$55 through the organization she works with. A lengthy conversation between Lucy Craig and the commission continues about where the cats come back to and how and where these cats will find food and destroying of people's property. C/Warnick states that we have no desire to hurt any cat however, they are destroying people's property. Ms. Craig hopes Roosevelt does the humane thing. Lawrence Mendies states the cats are good for our organic farming and if people are committed to doing this we could have an area (if the council approves) way in the back for saving the cats. We cannot take on any more work but if there are people committed to doing this we will provide the space. C/Warnick asks Maureen Parrott where does it say that you cannot have a birdfeeder.

Chairman Ticktin closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:39pm.

Maureen Parrott states that Stormwater Regulations did not require this ordinance the council is misinformed.

Lawrence Mendies asks: you can't feed animals on public property, is that State Law? Yes

Maureen Parrott makes a motion recommending that the council not adopt this ordinance on grounds that it is not required by State law, plus it is not a good idea, with a second from Kathleen Murphy, the motion passed unanimously.

Maureen Parrott asks that we add the TNR to new business.

Lucy Craig states that both her and her husband would volunteer maybe we can open to the community.

Maureen Parrott also wants to discuss pollution from leaf blowers and weed whackers – ask the council to explore prohibiting both gas powered leaf blowers and weed whackers. Michael Ticktin states the problem is always enforcement. Lawrence Mendies you need more research, you are dealing with contractors and you are telling them they have to change their whole line of blowers, it's not about your house he has many customers. Electric equipment cannot compare with gas powered.

C/Warnick states that the equipment sometimes is cheaper to buy until you need to replace the battery, they are very expensive. Steve Taylor states that the electric equipment does not hold the charge for very long and also there may be that the State is requiring this by 2030. Michael Ticktin states let's do some research, see if any other municipalities have this kind of ordinance., (Maureen Parrott will follow up).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 16, 2025 – **Kathleen Murphy** made a motion to approve the April 16, 2025, minutes with a second from **Maureen Parrott**. Minutes were unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. State of New Jersey – NJ Updates: Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and More.
2. ANJEC – May Monthly Digest
3. ANJEC – People over Plastics and Labor Day
4. NJDEP – NJUCF News and Updates – 5/1/25
5. ANJEC – NJ PACT Protecting Against Climate Rules

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON – No report at this time.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON – C/Warnick states that the Bough Council adopted the following: 1- approved sending the Amphitheater to SHPO and 2- approved a grant application to finish Pine Drive. Ms. Parrott brought up sidewalks on Rochdale and if you are allowed to walk on school ground during the school day. C/Warnick found out that the public is allowed to walk on school grounds but they cannot interact with the school children, and you cannot walk your dog on school property. The request for sidewalks on Rochdale - applications have been filed and been turned down.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative – No report at this time.
- Forest Management – Sam Ashburner emails the following report: This week Michael Merritt and the team moved the lumber for two puncheon sections near the Rochdale trailhead. Enough for two new sections of puncheons on the Rochdale-Tamara stretch were delivered. Work continued on this section during the week. Phase 1 (school trail) is now complete and everyone is encouraged to go and see the great work the Green Team did here. Big thanks to Michael Merrit, Ellen Silverman, Eric Vuole, Steve Taylor and everyone else who assisted with all of these efforts. We have a great group of volunteers and leaders helping with these efforts. Apologies if a name was missed in my review. Michael Merritt also emailed looks like we have teams for Monday PM, Tuesday AM, and Wednesday PM, we'll see what we get done and re-plan, bring gloves, battery drivers and sunny dispositions.
- Invasive Plant Species – Steve Taylor reports that Ellen Silverman and Steve removed invasive by the trail head at the Amphitheater, now that all the brush is gone there is now poison ivy. Let's ask the Borough to take care of it.
- Stream Monitoring – No report at this time.
- Sustainable Jersey – Hilary Wilder reports that she went to the Sustainable Jersey Summit and found out a few things, in the exhibit hall they had numerous information

packets. The State has a library in Jersey City that will help you set up murals, barriers, circles etc...

- Goals Committee – No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Proposed Ordinance on Wildlife Feeding

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Ticktin opens the public comment at: 8:20pm.

1. Steve Taylor – States we have one more meeting prior to 4th. Of July – will Environmental Commission have a table? What kind of tables/games/tattoos? Let's have volunteers for the 6/18/25 meeting. Lawrence Mendies states that he can donate some vegetables.

Chairman Ticktin closes the public comment at: 8:23pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Kathleen Murphy motioned to adjourn, Maureen Parrott offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:23pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary