

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Vice Chairman Sam Ashburner on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 7:01pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Lawrence Mendies, Michael Ticktin, Arielle Debira

Absent: Ben Johnson, Maureen Parrott, Dave Teich, Kathleen Murphy

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

Sam Ashburner 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 Michael Ticktin to approve the agenda and second was made by Lawrence Mendies. Agenda was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Ashburner opens the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:03pm.
No Public Comment

Vice Chairman Ashburner closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 18, 2025 – Arielle Debira made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025, minutes with a second from Lawrence Mendies.

Minutes were passed with abstention from Michael Ticktin.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **ANJEC** – Action Alert! Protect NJ Against Climate Threats
2. **Sustainable Jersey** – 2025 Sustainable Jersey Grant Recipients
3. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest, June 17, 2025
4. **The Watershed Institute** – Annual NJ Watershed Conference scheduled for February 27, 2026
5. **ANJEC** – July Monthly Digest
6. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF News & Updates 7/1/25
7. **NJ DEP** – New DEP Funding Opportunity
8. **The Watershed Institute** – Webinar on the Enhanced Model Municipal Stormwater Management Plan – July 11, noon – 1:30pm
9. **ANJEC** – The NJ PACT REAL Rules: A Solution to Flooding in New Jersey, Wednesday, July 16, at 6:00pm, via Zoom
10. **ANJEC** – Say No to Artificial Turf – Wednesday, June 23 at Noon, via Zoom
11. **The State of New Jersey** – Updates, Deadlines, Program, Guidance and More

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON – No report at this time. Lawrence Mendies states her reports to Heidi Mendies what goes on at the Environmental Commission meeting for her to bring back to the Planning Board. She can also report to Lawrence Mendies what goes on at the Planning Board meeting to bring back to the environmental Commission.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON – C/Warnick reports the feral cat ordinance was approved. There will be a presentation by the Animal Control Officer, after the budget gets adopted. We had the first reading on the Amphitheater referendum. First reading on the budget was adopted and second reading will be on August 4, 2025. He mentioned to the Borough Council the problem with the icing on the school path and that the little libraries have been installed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative – No report at this time.

- Forest Management – Sam Ashburner states we are working on solutions for the school path. Michael Merritt said signs on either side would be a good start which will give people a heads up and recommends we use non-stick deck coating. It's a clear paint with sand in it. We discussed adhesive strips and chicken wire – the adhesive strips would peel and the chicken wire – if it becomes bent it can be a tripping hazard. The deck coating is about \$60 a gallon and Sam will look to see if it is the best solution. Little Libraries 3 installed, School to Tamara entrance, Pine Drive triangle and N. Valley triangle. 3 separate artists painted them – books are already in them. Sam thanks Ellen Silverman, Dave Teich, Michael Merritt, Larisa Bondy and any other volunteers that I may have missed.
- Invasive Plant Species – No Report at this time.
- Stream Monitoring – No Report at this time.
- Sustainable Jersey – Hilary Wilder sent her report via email with the what is ready to submit and its status and what is in progress with the documentation needed. She needs a yearly report from the Environmental Commission and states it would be great to get the Sustainable Land Use Pledge passed again by the Borough Council and also to get NJUCF accreditation and an approved CFM plan this year. Sam Ashburner will continue to work with Hilary Wilder.
- Goals Committee – No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vice Chairman Ashburner opens the public comment at: 7:10pm.

1. Thilo Vethake, 28 Homestead Lane - introduces himself to the Environmental Commission and asks what the EC does. Sam Ashburner our purpose is to do what we can to maintain the environmental integrity around Roosevelt. Examples a lot of the work that happens on the trails, we work with the Borough contractors to help clear the trails, the art walk. We do stream monitoring; we do Sustainable Jersey – rewarding towns with green actions.

Vice Chairman Ashburner closes the public comment at: 7:17pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn, Lawrence Mendies offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:17pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary