

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 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, October 15, 2025 at 7:05pm.

The Roll was called by Sam Ashburner

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Ben Johnson, Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Kathleen Murphy

Absent: 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

Land and People Acknowledgement

Kathleen Murphy 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 Dave Teich 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: 7:05pm.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 17, 2025 – Kathleen Murphy made a motion to approve the September 17, 2025, minutes with a second from Dave Teich. Minutes were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **ANJEC** – Fall 2025 Report
2. **ANJEC** – ANJEC's 52nd Annual Environmental Congress – Friday, October 10 from 9am-4pm at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary
3. **Sustainable Jersey** – Sustainability In Action Newsletter – Summer 2025 edition
4. **Sustainable Jersey** – Register for the 2025 Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon
5. **The Watershed Institute** – Watershed Professionals Newsletter
6. **The Watershed Institute** – Assunpink Watershed Working Group Meeting – October, 28, 2025 4-:40-5:30 Virtual
7. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF News & Updates 10/1/25

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON- Lawrence Mendies states there is nothing to report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:

C/Warnick states the following:

The power lines and the poles – the town has no jurisdiction what's so ever, any problems go to the Board of Public Utilities. C/Warnick has driven around some other towns to see the new poles that have been installed. Sustainable Jersey – the paperwork has gone to M/Malkin. He has conveyed to the School Board about the Paw Paws and the Brush. The School Board thanks trail people for the painting of the bridges. On the School Board they still have 4 open seats, very confident that there is no possibility of closing the school and they will continue with their 4 trips this year and after school clubs.

There are a few items up in the air with the Borough Council – Affordable Housing – there are no places in town to build, Mr. Thomas negotiated down from 70 homes to 30 homes being rehabbed. The town has to hire an outside company to oversee the projects. Cost of the total project is estimated at 1 million dollars. Its 30 homes over a 10-year period, about \$30,000 per home. The listing of items is very specific on what can be done. The other project is the water tower – we have a report that states that the tower is need of repair – that cost is for short term fixing is about \$120,000 – the water tower only has about a 5-year life left in it at this time. We are still negotiating garbage collection. A lengthy discussion takes place regarding requirements for homes to be rehabbed.

Lawrence Mendies reports on the destruction of trees – (he followed up with JCP&L, the bats were released) at the next Planning Board meeting this will be discussed. Certain landowners who have easements (they have cleared 150 feet but it's really 180 feet) in this case there is nothing we can do. JCP&L can remove those trees in the additional area.

- Administrative – No report at this time.
- Forest Management – Sam Ashburner states we are at 99.5 hours in volunteer hours so if anybody wants to put in .5 hours to guarantee us 100 hours that would be great. We need to do in the coming year we need to do a community forest management plan. Ours has expired. We need to budget for next year, the cost is approximately \$6,000.00 - there are grants out there to help with the cost. This is a critical part of Sustainable Jersey. A lengthy conversation takes place regarding Sustainable Jersey and the trees in the borough.
- Invasive Plant Species – Steve Taylor reports that he removed the Japanese Knock Weed at Empty Box Brook and Rochdale. Steve talks about a pest that is attacking Hemlocks.
- Stream Monitoring – Mary Tulloss speaks about the group that goes out for on the 3rd. weekend of the month to collect specimens that they send to the Watershed. This past weekend they had their yearly quality assurance meeting, the Watershed wants to make sure our numbers are accurate. We did very well. More information to follow on salt monitoring. Brining of the County Roads are done by Monmouth County.
- Maureen Parrott reports that she attended the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions Conference, she attended workshops; one on Projects – An Organization called Beyond Plastic made a presentation they said solar is the cheapest form of energy and wind is the second. NJ imports energy that is coal powered. A presentation on Skip the stuff – asking municipalities to adopt ordinances that restaurants with takeout food would not automatically put plastics and condiments in takeout bags. There was also advocates on landscaping – several municipalities have banned gas powered leaf blowers because of pollution and State Statutes are proposed, again they are asking municipalities to have ordinances banning gas powered equipment. Also a session on Stormwater Management, on Stormwater permit – we do have a Stormwater Pollution Plan on our website, she learned we are supposed to do street sweeping 3x every year - C/Warnick replied we started doing that this year. Hilary Wilder explains we were a Tier B municipality for Stormwater Management – and the State got rid of Tier B – we now we are all the same Tier and have to meet the same standards as every other municipality. We also have to be a part of a Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) - Roosevelt did sign a letter of intent with the Watershed Institute and we will be a part of the Assunpink Watershed WIP. Ms. Parrott also said she learned that we also need to have a leaf disposal. C/Warnick states that Ana is working on the leaf disposal. Mr. Mendies replies that he has also tried to assist Roosevelt as a place for them to bring their leaves, they are a licenses leaf facility. They have been doing it for 13 years and have collected 10,000 cubic yards every year for E. Windsor Township, finally Roosevelt is trying again. Tim Hartley asks about gas powered leaf blowers, preventing them – wouldn't the next logical step be the Environmental Commission to propose to the Council that they enact such an ordinance? Mr. Teich responds that we discussed it at a prior meeting and the state is in the process of eliminating gas powered blowers. Hilary Wilder asks what did they say at your meeting about lawn services? Mr. Ticktin asks what about enforcement? You have

to catch the person in the act? Again Mr. Mendies states that at the prior meeting it was looked up and the state has something in motion. Mr. Ticktin believes it is something that should be encouraged. Ms. Parrott feels the state wide ban is much less likely to pass. Ms. Parrott makes a motion to call upon the legislature to pass ban on gas powered leaf blowers with a second from Mr. Ticktin. All in favor (5) in favor and (2) opposed. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Beech Leaf Disease – Tim Hartley presents – Woodland Trail Section B – Beech Leaf Disease (see attachment at the end of the minutes). The Commission have a lengthy discussion on trees, forests and pesticides. Dave Teich makes a motion that Mr. Hartley pursue the concerns and report back and if Ms. Parrott wants to look up information and if you want to invite Rutgers, we pursue this in any way possible and that might be several approached, Sam Ashburner seconds. Mr. Hartley states if there are alternative views expressed by any member of the EC, it's their responsibility to gather their information to share with the public and other EC members, Mr. Teich accepts that amendment to the motion. All in favor (6) any opposed (1). Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pawpaw seedlings – email from Michael Harland dated 7/30/25 – No discussion
2. Proposal for Town wide Solar Array in Roosevelt – Arielle Debira – Carry to next meeting.
3. Stream Clean-Up – April 11, 2026. Sam Ashburner makes a motion April 11, 2026 to be the date for the Stream Clean-up, with a second from Maureen Parrott. All are in favor, none opposed. Ms. Tulloss asks about a fall liter pick up. Check with Maria Dellasala regarding a Clean Communities pick up.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Ticktin opens the public comment at: 8:47pm.
Chairman Ticktin closes the public comment at: 8:47pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Kathleen Murphy motioned to adjourn, Lawrence Mendies offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:47pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary

