

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 16, 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, April 16, 2025 at 7:05pm.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Lawrence Mendies, Maureen Parrott, Michael Ticktin,

Absent: Ben Johnson, Dave Teich, Kathleen Murphy, 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 **Sam Ashburner** 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: 7:07pm.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at: 7:07pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 19, 2025 – **Sam Ashburner** made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025, minutes with a second from **Lawrence Mendies**.

Minutes were unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **ANJEC** – ANJEC 2025 Environmental Commission Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects, deadline Monday, May 12, 2025
2. **NJ DEP** – Comment on NJBPU's Urban Heat Mitigation Program
3. **ANJEC** – ANJEC Environmental News Digest – March 18, 2025
4. **ANJEC** – 2025 Fundamentals of Effective Environmental Commissions – Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 9am-11:30am at Tatum Park Holland Activity Center, Middletown, NJ
5. **ANJEC** – Spring 2025 ANJEC Report
6. **State of New Jersey** – NJ Updates, Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and more
7. **Sustainable Jersey** – Energy Saving Opportunities

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON – None at this time.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON – C/Warnick reports on 3 items:

1. Ms. Wilder would like to go to the Sustainable Jersey Conference and recommends that she goes. Ms. Parrott is also going and they can share a ride there together.
2. At the Council Meeting C/Warnick recommend that we deal with the Watershed Permit and that Danelle Feignbaum, who is the Environmental Commission Committee person on the Borough Council, Michael Ticktin and Maureen Parrott work together with the Planning Board to get the MS4 Permit, (there are 2 permits that are needed).
3. At the April 7, 2025 Borough Council meeting there was a lengthy discussion regarding Marijuana Cultivation – (Micro Business) Ordinance 25-07 was on the agenda for second reading, the ordinance tabled. Lawrence Mendies explains how we can grow on preserved property. Maureen Parrott states it should only be grown organically. And also feels the ordinance should be done with a committee that gives the Attorney direction.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative – No report.

- Forest Management – Sam Ashburner reports on the puncheon project with Michael Merritt. Michael Merritt stated the lumber was delivered on April 11, 2025, and will try to start the work on the School Trail on April 23, 2025 and in early May. Just a reminder any volunteer hours should be reported to Sam Ashburner or Ben Johnson, as they monitor the volunteer hours, and then they can add to the Community Forest Management Report – which is due at the end of the year.
- Invasive Plant Species – Steve Taylor reports he has started to add the labels on the plants along the trail, also he marked the invasive at the trail head by the Amphitheater with orange tape. Mr. Taylor is hoping that on April 26, 2025 to have some people out there to remove the invasive out there. Mr. Taylor also had a question about the branch pickup flyer; branches should not be placed any sooner than April 26, 2025 with a 7 day’s limit, summons will be issued if placed sooner. Also questions curbs – edge of the roadway – where can’t we put this stuff? The question is where can we put this stuff before the 26th. and not get a violation? Ask Ana for clarification. In the past we have been able to put it out earlier, have the rules changed? Yes, with the new Stormwater Regulations the DEP has let the towns know that no yard waste to be placed prior to 7 days of pickup. Lawrence Mendies explains how the leaves and branches are placed in East Windsor. Mr. Taylor would like clarification. Maureen Parrott responds call the Code Enforcement Officer and ask him to explain where or where not to place branches without getting a summons. Ms. Parrott responds she will contact the Mayor and ask her to get clarification.
- Stream Monitoring – No Report.
- Sustainable Jersey – Received the following from Hilary Wilder:
 1. I have contacted the mayor and OEM director about the possibility of working on three Emergency Management actions (Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Firewise Community, and Ready Set GO! Fire Company) however I have not had a response from either of them. I don't know if these actions are feasible and I need their input.
 2. I hope to start uploading documentation for a number of other actions over the summer. I have already uploaded the letter from the mayor- so that's good to go. Some actions require end-of-year reports (e.g. the EOY report for the EC) but we will have time for that since the deadline is Feb. in 2026.

I am thinking of attending the SJ summit on May 9th. Would the EC reimburse me for the registration fee (\$45)? I would be happy to carpool/drive if there are other people from Roosevelt who are going (I think Maureen expressed an interest) - please give them my email address. After much discussion it is determined that as a Green Team Member Hilary Wider is able to attend and be reimbursed.

Maureen Parrott makes a motion to approve Hilary to attend the SJ summit, with a second from Lawrence Mendies. This was passed unanimously.

- Goals Committee – No report.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Ticktin opens the public comment at: 7:49pm.

No Public Comment

Chairman Ticktin closes the public comment at: 7:49pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Sam Ashburner motioned to adjourn, Lawrence Mendies offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:49pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary