

CORRECTED

February 17, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Bonna, Grunwald, Trammell, Tulloss, Walz, Vacancy
Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Van Salisbury-Alt 1

Chairperson Grunwald stated: “Let the minutes show that adequate notice of this meeting as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the Open Public Meetings Law has been provided by posting notice on the public bulletin board at the Roosevelt Post Office and Borough Hall. A copy of this notice was e-mailed to the Asbury Park Press and the Times [Trenton] for publication and filed with the Borough Clerk on **January 26, 2016.**”

Chair Grunwald informed the members that **Ms. Ilana Janowitz** had to resign, as she is moving from Roosevelt. This leaves vacant a 3-year (1/16-12/18) Regular Member position which she had filled when Mr. Louis Esakoff resigned in 2015. Former Mayor Beth Battel was late, is a new member, also has been ill, so all were very glad to see her.

OATH:

Mr. Michael Ticktin was present, having been appointed by the Borough Council to fill the 2-year Alternate-2 position for 1/16-12/17 vacated by Ms. McBride. He completed the Oath and was welcomed to the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Chairperson Grunwald and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna that the minutes of January 20, 2016 be accepted. The minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on p.3 under Invasive Plant Species, line 11, change *DTNJ* to TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) and on p.4 under Sustainable Jersey Grant, lines 1 & 2 “*mentioned*ed that this Commission had received a \$2,000 small grant from *Sustainability New Jersey*” to read “*mentioned* that this Commission had replied to a \$2,000 small grant from *Sustainable Jersey*”. New member Mr. Michael Ticktin abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) NJDEP & Federal Highway Administration approved EC’s Recreational Trails Program matching grant application for \$8,000 approved

Chair Grunwald announced a partnership arrangement with the **Student Conservation Association** which will do the actual work. Ms. Diane Lowrie will help by coordinating

the project. The bulk of the work will take place over the summer to **reroute** further up **between Rochdale and Tamara** as the trail is too near Empty Box Brook (water problems) and also to create an **alternate route and trailhead by the cemetery**. Now the trailhead dead ends at the cemetery forcing pedestrians to walk on private property. The work will provide a bypass route onto Assunpink property rather than on private property. This was applied for in 2011-2012 and the State has funds now, so we re-applied again. Our first application did not qualify. We hope that an official map may come out of this project.

- 2) Grant Agreement, NJ DEP, Div. of Parks & Forestry & USDA, Forest Service, \$3,000 each Green Communities Grant

Chair Grunwald announced that we have also been approved for this \$3,000 Grant to help pay for services from the **Audubon Society (AS)** to do a Site Review and Plan. He has heard from our Planning Board and this will be on their Agenda in April and encouraged our members to attend that meeting (first Tuesday, April 5, 2016).

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell, Planning Board Representative, reported that the Planning Board did not meet. Chair Grunwald added that he had received an e-mail from Planning Board Chairperson Kevin McNally indicating that the Planning Board plans to have some discussion about the integration of the **Environmental Resources Inventory into the Master Plan** on their April Agenda. Mr. Grunwald will be out of town at that time; he encouraged our members to attend for our input. Planning Board Chairperson McNally is looking into what the obligations are to integrate the ERI into the Master Plan. One thing that is **required by law** is that once our information is submitted and updated, then the Planning Board is obligated to provide the Environmental Commission with an informational copy of any **site plan or development or redevelopment** that they may be reviewing in order to give us time for input.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chair Grunwald reported that the Borough Council has approved our working contract with the **Audubon Society (AS)**. There will be a site visit by Jeremy in early March; it will be a walk around the property to double check that our project is appropriate for their program, then we can proceed to plan goals for our forests with the forester. If it is appropriate, then the Audubon Society will execute/sign a Contract and develop our program with them. Those interested and knowledgeable Roosevelt residents are invited for Committee input. There are many with backgrounds and areas of expertise like Dr. Hartman, Rod Tulloss, our Fire Department, Jill Lipoti, our member Stacey Bonna, etc.

Invasive Plant Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that they did not meet but Mr. Steve Taylor has written an **article** for the Borough Bulletin on **English Ivy**. They have started their **Facebook** page on **Invasive Species**. She has signed up for **Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commission Training** on Saturday, March 5. Chair Grunwald said that

we need to firm up a **date for the Autumn Olive Attack** to be able to coordinate it with the branch pick-up and keep Kelly (Borough) in the loop. Ms. Wald agreed adding that the volunteers also need to be coordinated to be able to help us. Mr. Ticktin agreed that Kelly and also Hightstown and John Impellizzeri of our Public Works need to be in this loop. This will be followed up.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - **Mr. Ed DiFiglia, Municipal Policy Specialist** with Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association was introduced. Being new, he is visiting all 25 municipalities involved with this Watershed. They focus on projects, education [students and adults], conservation, ordinances, advocacy, water quality monitoring, pervious cover, preservation, work with DEP, talk with Councils, etc. Mr. DiFiglia is willing to help us with our project--a speaker, check Ordinances with recommendations, etc. He invited this Commission to visit them, said trails are open seven days a week dawn to dusk. He also mentioned a grant called the **Get Active and J Grant**, \$3,000 to improve something already written in our Ordinances, and it is flexible. Chair Grunwald mentioned that we have two different water systems here [Rocky Brook and Empty Box Brook] as we are on the continental divide. Mr. DiFiglia said that they have a person working with them who could deal with Rocky Brook. Chair Grunwald said we have the Delaware person coming to see us. This could be a start.

Vice Chairperson Mary Tulloss reported that this Committee met with Messrs. Mark Aakhus and Rod Tulloss on February 16, 2016. They both were former Chairpersons of this Environmental Commission and had both worked on **stream restoration about ten years ago** when they had a grant from the NJDEP (Dept. of Environmental Protection). They had approval to proceed with their project, and then **approval was withheld** when their contact person in the DEP was replaced. Now that area has many problems. Member Joe Trammell will digitize copies of old correspondence so that we have a record of work that was undertaken. He walks that area, said deforestation is almost to Rochdale Avenue, also the *North Branch of Empty Box Brook (North of Pine Drive)* runs brown and runs green. He felt we should show this situation on maps. It was felt we should get samples for testing. Other comments were that we need to factor in what we are trying to solve and we should get better educated on what we need to do. Also there was discussion about there no longer being a stream channel and that we need some answers.

Training in stream monitoring will take place on April 9th with April 16th as a backup date in case of bad weather. Training will be provided by Ms. Susan Lee, Americorps Watershed Ambassador. Contact has been made with a student who is in the Ecology Club at Hightstown High School. We will hope to have adult and teenage volunteers for the Stream Monitoring Project.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Recreation Trails Grant - Ms. Kelly Tyers, Public Works, reported that her daughter, Traci Mitchell, is a student at Hightstown High School and some of the **students** are interested in working to get credits for the Peer Group Class. They may be a **pool for summer work**. We are waiting to hear from the East Windsor School Board.

Other Business - Vice Chair Mary Tulloss called attention to leaves clogging the storm drains. Ms. Stacey Bonna will check with Public Works.

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Mr. Joe Trammell, this meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary