

CORRECTED

November 16, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald opened with sad news to this Commission that a fellow resident, Ron Filepp, who was riding his bicycle, was hit and killed by a car. His obituary mentioned that he secretly without fanfare or recognition maintained our trails in his spare time. "Ron loved the Roosevelt Woodland Trail and over the years invested hundreds of volunteer hours in regular upkeep of the Trail... He took the maintenance of the Trail as his own personal mission." His family, in lieu of flowers, is setting up a fund for donations to be made to the Borough of Roosevelt in his memory. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahun.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Bonna, 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."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Michael Ticktin and second by Joe Trammell that the minutes of September 21, 2016 be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections to be made on the third line from the bottom of page 32, change "corporation" to "*cooperation*"; and on page 33, second line of second paragraph, change "non-profit help" to read "*non-profit to help...*" On page 34, under "RPS Historic Tree Plaques, line 5, "Member Michael Ticktin called attention to our new..." be changed to read "*It was also mentioned that the new...*"; and also on page 34 under Trails Project, line 10, change "There is an entrance on Agress Road." to read "*It might be similar to the kiosk at the Rocky Brook Trail entrance on Agress Road.*" Ms. Mary Tulloss abstained, as she was absent in September.

Ms. Beth Battel abstained; she was absent at the July meeting. The August 17 meeting was cancelled.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair Grunwald mentioned an e-mail from a town resident who expressed some concerns about *leaves being dumped* in the public woods.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joe Trammell reported that this Board met on November 1. Mr. Robert Francis requested extending the time for filing an application before the Planning Board. It was extended to the first of May 2017. There was discussion of the Resolution on Ordinance 16-103 which was actually Ordinance 16-102 to alter the Redevelopment Zone Plan for the gas station property request from the Council to add the words making Borough Hall a Redevelopment Zone. Mr. Trammell suggested that this be tabled and that Mr. Tom Thomas, Planner, be invited to come and advise *the Planning Board*.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Stacey Bonna was not able to attend, so Mr. Michael Ticktin spoke, told *how the Council discussed* the issue of the *Emergency Services Building* and they chose to go forward with it, not as a Redevelopment Zone which would eliminate the need for the Planning Board to have to make any findings as to it being a Redevelopment Zone. This means that if it goes to second reading and is passed, those who disagree will have the opportunity to present a petition and we will then have another referendum, see what the results are, and take it from there. Chair Grunwald added, as a reminder to the Environmental Commission, that if the development moves forward with the construction of a building, he assumes that a Site Plan is presented to the Planning Board and that by law the **Planning Board must refer that Site Plan to this Commission** for comments and our input. Mr. Ticktin added that the issue now is the Bond and then decision is made. Chair Grunwald added that almost all our land has been developed or preserved. This is a rare experience for us to have.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chair Grunwald reported that our contract has been executed and first steps taken to compile some documents for the **Forester, Ron Farr**. The people in town, members of the Environmental Commission, volunteers, etc. were invited to participate in a **Forest Management Planning Advisory Group** to represent the community's interests and priorities in the planning process. We are looking for a cross-representative sampling of (1) people with enough scientific knowledge and background to understand various implications, (2) regular residents who feel strongly about the forest and its preservation, (3) members of the fire company and their input on fire hazards. There are about ten people who can help us over the next five years, give us recommendations, etc. Chair Grunwald explained that this information can be passed to the Forester. *The Advisory group* will be able to comment; a draft will be made sometime in the Spring. There will be a public presentation of the draft and the whole community invited; people can comment before it gets finalized. The next step is for the Environmental Commission to adopt the Plan; it is then sent to the Borough Council for their adoption and then to the New Jersey Forest Service for approval. This is to be completed by April or May because it will take up to six to twelve months for the State to do their review. They then accept it or send it back with comments and/or amendments. We hope for State approval by the end of the year. *Then we become eligible for grant money*. Chair Grunwald is coordinating as the Intermediary, working closely with Forester Ron Farr.

Ms. Beth Battel was interested in what they will be doing. Chair Grunwald explained that this is a two-part answer. We want to **protect the health of the forest by controlling invasive species and wild fire hazard mitigation**. So we might continue removing invasive species. Invasive species are a sign of stress in the forest; they take a foothold; and we need to see what the forester says. We might find native alternatives for them. Chair Grunwald added that we will need to work with Public Works also and take a broad inventory of our trees by doing a **hazard tree assessment**. A hazard tree is defined as in danger of falling or the limbs are in danger of falling, making said tree dangerous for people. We are spending money each year on hazardous trees; *we need an Inventory* making us eligible for monies to take care of these trees. State law covers us with liability protection with an approved Plan. Note, this is only for Borough property. Also Assunpink folks are interested in what we are doing, want to see our Plan, and are willing to follow our lead on their property within Roosevelt. They have resources that we do not have.

Invasive Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that this committee **did some planting** in the new small pocket park at the corner of Rt. 571 and Spruce Lane. They **cleared some areas**. Allen Tree Service left us more **mulch which they spread**. They also **worked on the Trail** chopping out some burning bush, multiflora rose, and Japanese barberry, and **planted 50 red buds** between the bike path and Rochdale. They will be gorgeous in the Spring! Re the **articles** they have been placing in the **Borough Bulletin**, starting February they are going to start talking about plants that people should plant and for the opening of the **Butterfly Park**, they will write about milkweed and other butterfly friendly plants.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that they were hoping to do a stream monitoring in the Fall; however, there were some health issues among the group, and it was getting cold. They are looking forward to the Spring. Their **new Watershed Ambassador** could come to **visit us in March**, will invite him. She mentioned that there was a lot of water in the creek and it isn't raining. It has spread out wider. Mr. Joe Trammell added that the creek behind his house was dry; he checked upstream and found debris and leaves. Ms. Sharon Walz noted that there was one tree across the brook, inquired if we should do something.. Mary Tulloss remembers when that tree fell. Steve Taylor said slow stream movement is all right.

OLD BUSINESS:

RPS Historic Tree Plaques - Re the **historic trees** at the Roosevelt Public School, Ms. Mary Tulloss said she hasn't yet found **funds for the sign for the tree**. *Ms. Mary Tulloss* still feels something should be there. It originated in the ANJEC News publication's great ideas. She feels it is **important for the children at the school** to know about these historic trees. It was mentioned that perhaps a local artist could help with the plaques. Chair Grunwald mentioned if this was even an Environmental concern. Mr. Ticktin said that we might be able to find some funds but our budget is limited. Ms. Beth Battel felt it was not an Environmental issue and Steve Taylor suggest that perhaps some local artist might help. It was asked how long the tree was there, and it was felt about twenty years, and it needs to be labeled before someone just cuts it down not realizing it is historic. Mary said she will work on this a little longer.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Trails Project - Chairperson Grunwald mentioned the **platforms (punches) along the Trail being slippery** and how to treat them. Treatment is being researched by Mr. *Ulrich* Bonna who said they need to check what works best and how much we would need. Mr. Steve Taylor said there are several kinds of stains and Chair Grunwald said that this would have to be done when the temperatures are warm, probably will take 72 hours to dry. There are several paints, stains, and oils, some better than others. We can work on some boards inside to test products. We have some money, get approval from the State to use the money on this project. We can use rollers or brushes; the rollers might be easier. Mr. Taylor suggest three or four people working on this.

Leaf Pick Up - Leaves are being **dumped in the woods** due to no town leaf pick-up. There seems to be **no Ordinance against this dumping**; however, this dumping of leaves is illegal on Assunpink lands. Chair Grunwald said that the piles of leaves are **smothering new growth**; some mentioned fires from the extra leaves; however, comment was the piles must be very high (over six feet high) for fires. Some are **dumped in streams** which is problematic. Mr. Joe Trammell mentioned that other towns bring leaves to the street for pickup; unfortunately, **Roosevelt has no collection**. Ms. Sharyn Walz said leave them on the lawn; Mr. Ticktin said spread them out. Mr. Steve Taylor said that we get leaves blown from the woods, so putting them back in the woods is not unreasonable. Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned leaves from a larger area like Solar Village blowing toward the creek and the Trail being a problem. Chair Grunwald suggested mulching the leaves is a good practice, distribute in the woods by spreading, not piling, and felt the residents should have a little more information on leaves. Ms. Sharyn Walz will write an **article for the Borough Bulletin**.

Other - Ms. Sharyn Walz mentioned the mystery of the **missing manholes** (Brown St., along the Trails, etc.) many not found. Mr. Michael Ticktin said the Borough can check this without permission. Sharyn Walz and Jill Lipoti will meet at 10:00 this Sunday at the Sewer Plant (Pine Dr.) to walk, look, and flag problems; other invited to join them; they have maps. Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned a large dead oak tree near the local school; Chair Grunwald mentioned two trees with problems that were mentioned at the School meeting. Such problems should be reported to Kelly/Public Works.

PUBLIC/OTHER:

Chair Grunwald introduced *Nicholas* Murray who may join this Commission. The Chair and Secretary will be absent in December; if no urgent issues, the December meeting will cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion and second, this meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary