

2017 REORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 18, 2017

The Reorganization/Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Battel, Bonna, Grunwald, Murray, Tulloss, Walz
Felong-Alt 1, Ticktin-Alt 2

Absent: Hartley

Chair 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 11, 2017."

Chair Grunwald said that all positions are filled at this time and explained the alternate voting rule. These two members attend meetings, participate in discussions and voice their opinions, but only vote if a regular member is absent or disqualified (conflict of interests, etc.) to vote. If one regular member is not voting, then Alternate-1 votes; if two regular members are not voting, then Alternate-2 also votes. Tonight Mr. Tim Hartley, who was appointed by the Mayor as the Planning Board Representative, is absent; so Alternate-1, Kimberly Felong, will vote, but Michael Ticktin will not.

Also, Chair Grunwald explained a technicality about the first steps in the Reorganization that have to do with the motions regarding the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. It has been the practice of the Environmental Commission to vote/elect a Chairperson; but he reviewed the Ordinance and it is the prerogative of the Mayor to appoint. The Commission should be able to voice their opinion to affirm that appointment or disagree with it. So the motion tonight for the "Chair" position is in the form of affirming the Mayor's appointment rather than electing; it is non-binding. He suggested in the future that a vote could be taken in December to make a recommendation to the Mayor for the Chair. Re the Vice-Chair, members of the Commission do elect this position.

APPOINTMENTS:

Grunwald, Eitan/Regular EC Term 1/17-12/2019 Chairperson 2017
Bonna, Stacey/Council Representative for 2017 EC Term 1/16-12/18
Hartley, Tim/Planning Board Representative for 2017 EC Term 1/2016 12/18

Murray, Nicholas/Regular (Janowitz to 12/15, vacant 2016) EC Term 1/2016-12/18
 Tulloss, Mary/Regular EC Term 1/2017-12/2019
 Felong, Kimberly/Alt #1 EC Term 1/2017-12/2018

The 1/3/17 Council Meeting re-appointed **Ms. Stacey Bonna** as Council Representative to the Environmental Commission for the year 2017, 1-year, (EC term 1/16-12/18); **Mr. Eitan Grunwald** was re-appointed by Mayor Ellentuck as a Regular Member for the term 1/17-12/19 and also to be Environmental Commission Chairperson for 2017; **Ms. Mary Tulloss** was re-appointed as Regular Member (term 1/17-12/19); **Mr. Nicholas Murray** was appointed by Mayor Ellentuck at the 12/12/16 Council Meeting as Regular Member to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Ilana Janowitz 12/15, vacant 2016, term 1/16-12/18; **Ms. Kimberly Felong** was appointed as Alternate #1 to fill the vacancy created when Danielle Van Salisbury was not re-appointed, term expiring 12/31/16 (new term 1/17-12/18). **Planning Board Representative** to the Environmental Commission appointment for the year 2017 1-year (EC term 1/16-12/18) is **Tim Hartley**, currently out-of-town, will fill vacancy created by resignation of Joe Trammell.

Note: Regular Terms are three years; Alternate Terms are two years.

OATHS: Bonna, Grunwald, Tulloss, Murray, Felong, Hartley

Oaths were completed by Ms. Bonna, Ms. Felong, Ms. Tulloss and Messrs. Grunwald and Murray. Mr. Hartley is out-of-town and will complete the Oath when he returns.

REORGANIZATION:

Members of the Environmental Commission affirmed the Mayor's re-appointment of Eitan Grunwald as Chairperson.

Chairperson: It was moved by Ms. Mary Tulloss and seconded by Ms. Beth Battel that members accept/welcome the Mayor's re-appointment of Eitan Grunwald as Chairperson for 2017. This passed unanimously

Vice Chairperson: It was moved by Ms. Stacey Bonna and seconded by Ms. Beth Battel that Ms. Mary Tulloss continue as Vice Chairperson for 2017. This passed unanimously.

Secretary: It was moved by Ms. Beth Battel and seconded by Ms. Mary Tulloss that Ann Kassahun continue as Secretary for 2017. This passed unanimously.

Meeting Dates for 2017:

Motion was made by Ms. Stacey Bonna and seconded by Ms. Beth Battel and passed unanimously that the Environmental Commission will continue to meet on the **third**

Wednesday [when possible] of the month for the year 2017 and the Commission will meet at **7:00 p.m.** Commission members accepted the following 2017 meeting dates:

REGULAR MEETING DATES

February 15, 2017
 March 15, 2017
 April 19, 2017
 May 17, 2017
 June 21, 2017
 July 19, 2017
 August 16, 27
 September 27, 2017 (4th Weds.)
 October 18, 2017
 November 15, 2017
 December 20, 2017

Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and seconded by Ms. Stacey Bonna that the Asbury Park Press [daily county newspaper] and the Times of Trenton [widely-read daily newspaper] be the **official newspapers** used for public notices; this passed unanimously. [Note: Planning Board Attorney Donato has stated that meetings must be noticed in two newspapers.] This was amended to include that the notices will be posted inside the local Post Office on the right wall which is enclosed and locked. This was accepted. Note that Notices are always posted in the Borough Hall.

This ended the 2017 Reorganization of the Roosevelt Environmental Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Sharyn Walz to approve the minutes of **November 16, 2016**. These minutes were discussed and the following corrections are to be made: the last line of p. 36, change “the work being done” to read “*leaves being dumped...*”; p. 37, under Report of Planning Board Representative, last line, change “advise us.” to read “*advise the Planning Board.*” And on p. 37 under Report of Council Representative, first line, change “told how the Council was devoted to the issue of the Services Building ” to read “*told how the Council discussed the issue of the Emergency Services Building...*” and also on p. 37, under Reports of Committees: Forest Management, second line, change “Forest Manager, Ron Farr.” to read “*Forester Ron Farr.*” and line 10, change “The Advisory groups” to read “*The Advisory group*”; also on next to last line in this paragraph, change “Then they grant money to implement action.” to read “*Then we become eligible for grant money.*” On p. 38, continuing under Forest Management, five lines from bottom, change “...we need a certified tree expert to take the Inventory” to read “*we need an Inventory...*” Also on p. 38, under Old Business: RPS Historic Tree Plaques, second line, change “Michael Ticktin” to read “*Mary Tulloss*”. On page 39, under Trails Project,

change line 2, “Ulrick Bonna” to read “*Ulrich Bonna*” and also under Public/Other, first line, change “Nicholis Murray” to read “*Nicholas Murray*”. These minutes with the above corrections were now accepted unanimously on motion by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Sharyn Walz.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Chairperson Eitan Grunwald explained that Mr. Hartley is out-of-state at the present time. Mr. Ticktin attended this Planning Board meeting and reported that there is someone interested in the **garage property** (Rochdale Ave.) for a **medical marijuana business**. For our information, Mr. Ticktin mentioned that the **New Jersey Supreme Court** gave down a decision yesterday about the **Affordable Housing ruling** that towns are responsible for their quotas and will have to provide Affordable Housing opportunities they should have provided over the years while everything has been held up in litigation. In Roosevelt’s case, the main defense is that land that might have been available years ago is not available now, because of farmland preservation and State and County land acquisitions.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chairperson Eitan Grunwald passed out the proposed mission and goals of the **Initial Five-Year Community Forest Management Plan** which included five goals:

- (1) Reduce the risk of wildfire (probability and/or severity)
- (2) Control the spread of invasive plant species
- (3) Reduce risk of damage/injury from trees on streets and public properties
- (4) Improve sustainability of forest natural resources
- (5) Develop community awareness and involvement

Chair Grunwald said that the **Forester, Ron Farr**, likes our goals and we will get his input. Locals in our community know our forests better than he does, so we will work together. Chair Grunwald will also work with our Forester on the **objectives and details**. They will try to have a Draft done by the end of March, to submit the Plan to the State by the end of April, in hopes of getting it approved by the end of this year, to be eligible for funding for 2018. Next we will work out the 5-year objective, the steps we will take to implement these goals. Motion and second were made to adopt the mission and goals which was unanimously accepted.

Invasive Plant Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported this group needs to get plants for Spring planting. As for the stumps, there are about eight more; they are almost all gone. They have

last year's **milkweeds** which will be distributed this 4th of July to residents who would like to plant them. It got late for planting last year. There are about 20 more **red bud trees** to be planted; 50 others were planted earlier in one day between the bike path and Rochdale Avenue. There are some restrictions where to plant red buds; front yards are off limits. Mr. Steve Taylor added that red buds are for reforestation, not for landscaping. This Committee would like to push "good" plants. This month's **Borough Bulletin** article, written by Mr. Steve Taylor, will be the last to deal with **Invasive Species**. Ms. Sharyn Walz reminded the members that February 27 to March 30 is dedicated to National Invasive Species Awareness; this Committee will put up a notice for the community. Ms. Walz would like to advocate a Spring branch pickup. Rationale is that there was no Fall pickup, trying to prevent build-up of dry wood by houses and dumping in the forest which is a fire hazard. Motion was made by Ms. Sharyn Walz and seconded by Ms. Stacey Bonna to request a branch pickup. This was accepted unanimously. The Borough Clerk will be contacted to place this on the next Council Agenda. Ms. Bonna will present this to the Council. Ms. Beth Battel said that she has observed a problem over the years that the deer eat everything, especially young trees, so this means few new trees to replenish the forest. Grunwald mentioned that since he will be working with the Forester, he can get his input and/or can help put others in touch with him.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss introduced our **new Water Shed Ambassador, Andrew Garcia**. He was appointed last September. She asked him to do a refresher course for our people. They do have an idea how to do work in the brook/stream. She would like to do some investigation upstream because the stream is very shallow and spread out; perhaps something is happening. Chair Grunwald added that we could pick up from where we left off last year, try to do the training in one day. Mr. Garcia suggested indoor training in March, stream work beginning in April, so the water is warm.

Sustainable New Jersey - Chair Grunwald explained Sustainable New Jersey. The Environmental Commission has received some money to get certified **doing activities for points** from Sustainable New Jersey. Many things we already do need to be written up. Chair Grunwald, Ms. Sharyn Walz, and Ms. Jill Lipoti went through the many categories (farms, art and culture, etc.) and some of our local activities. If we write them up with documentation, it could mean **credits**. This could be submitted in June this year. Ms. Walz will be talking with members about what we are doing, take pictures etc. The documentation is the work. **Certification lasts for three years** and certification makes us eligible for bigger and better grants and gives us some recognition. Ms. Jill Lipoti will look into digitizing our public information which is worth ten points. They are looking at the online municipal public services and are confident we could get that ten points. There are other things we can do to get points. There is an animal category too. Chair Grunwald added we can dovetail with other Roosevelt activities; Ms. Tulloss has read up on grants for schools too. It seems that schools would have to have a Green Team to apply. Chair Grunwald said schools are not under Sustainable New Jersey which deals with municipal government. The local school would have to pursue on their own. Mr. Ticktin gets various mail that he forwards to our local school.

We got a **\$2,000 grant** from Sustainable New Jersey on April 1, 2016 which ends March 31, 2017. It is an unrestricted grant for general operations. We set up a Budget and **did not spend** \$750 for training, \$250 for printed materials, and \$200 for postage. We **did spend** \$134

on Education and Outreach and \$427 for stream monitoring kits for **total of \$561**, leaving a balance of **\$1,439**. We could use this remaining money for stump grinding \$800 and the 2016 Earth Day presentation for \$150 which were both funded from the Borough EC budget retro and CFMP for \$250 cost not covered by NJDEP grant to be upcoming funds from the Borough EC budget for a total of \$1,200. This could come out of the Grant leaving a remainder of \$239.

Another way to use the money would be to **have the Tree Hazard Inventory done** with this \$1,500 instead of a possible grant in 2017 or 2018 for that amount. Re the Tree Hazard Inventory, it must be done by professionals, not local tree workers. It is the Forester who helps with this by ranking trees. He designs the plan; the work gets done later. If the plan gets approved, the Inventory gets done earlier, but not necessarily the work on the problem trees. There is another advantage to this. If the town has worked with “good faith” getting the Inventory done, then we are protected under certain legislative clause(s) for lawsuits. This applies to Borough property only. This grant is just for the Inventory; a large grant is also needed for the implementation of the tree work (trim trees, cut down trees, etc.) later. Tree inventories are one of the top priorities of our State; they require us to do inventories.

Motion was made by Chair Grunwald that we **reallocate Sustainable New Jersey money to pay** for the stump grinding \$800, the 2016 Earth Day presentation \$150. and the CFMP cost not covered by NJDEP grant \$250 for a total of **\$1,200**, leaving a total balance on our Sustainable NJ account of \$239. Second was made by Ms. Beth Battel. Unanimously passed.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Puncheons - Chair Grunwald explained that these are the **wooden platforms along the trails**; some need treating and some need to be replaced. They become slick, need coating. He spoke with Nick and they will do a walk through, figure the materials needed, etc. New member, Ms. Kimberly Felong, walks the Trails and will check also. She was concerned about how the puncheons will be treated.

PUBLIC:

Andrew Garcia, Water Shed Ambassador, mentioned a rain barrel workshop for our members. He did not know the cost of the barrels and supplies needed. Member Sharyn Walz will check prices and a decision will be made whether to go forward with this workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna, this meeting was adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary