

## CORRECTED

May 24, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 7:05 P.M at the Borough Hall. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald presided and called the Roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Bonna, Grunwald, Hartley, Murray, Tulloss, Walz, Felong (Alt-1), Ticktin (Alt-2)

Absent: Battel

Chairperson Eitan 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 23, 2017."

**AGENDA CHANGE:**

Chairperson Eitan Grunwald called for a change to this evening's Agenda. Our Forester, Mr. Ron Farr, was present after driving a very long distance. He has been working on our Forest Management Report and will review it with our Commission. This Agenda Change was acceptable to the members.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:**

Forest Management - Chair Grunwald had sent copies earlier of the **Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)** to members of this Commission, volunteers, and our Public Works. It is a very long document (37 pages) prepared by **Mr. Farr** for the **NJ Forest Service** following their guidelines for structure and presentation, designed for their review and approval process. It is to guide Roosevelt in managing our municipal forests for 2017-2021. Chair Grunwald also had sent a 4-page **Summary of this Plan** to members for review. Our members asked questions and made comments; Mr. Farr added information and clarification. There are five (5) **Goals and Objectives**: (1) Reduce the risk of wildfire, (2) Control the spread of invasive plant species in municipal woodlands, (3) Reduce the risk of damage and injury from municipal trees, (4) Improve forest sustainability for all natural resources, and (5) Develop community awareness and involvement. Members thought this Plan was well done. Mr. Ticktin was concerned about hazardous trees falling and tree roots interfering with sewer lines. Mr. Farr explained that trees falling could hit targets and do damage so are classified "hazardous"; but the root problems are not so classified. It was favorably noted that this is a 5-year plan. The **Actions** to be worked on all five years are: Wildfire Risk, Invasive Species, Hazard Trees, Forest Sustainability, and Community Awareness. Chair Grunwald noted that we want to get approved in 2017 (first year, get funding) so that we can work in 2018.

Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned the problem town folks have with no local **leaf pickup**. Leaves are dumped into the woods and some residents mulch them; so Ms. Tulloss asked if this was being looked at. We are a small town, funding is the problem. It is not included in this Plan. Ms. Stacy Bonna will speak with Public Works. It was noted that **our forests** are mostly “wet” stuff; trees are pretty dense and might require some clearance. Some trees can be on Borough property, but their canopies are very close or over residents’ property lines. Right now there is no tree removal, as the town does not have funds for it. Mr. Tim Hartley noted on page 2 of Summary, Actions, year 2018, under Forest Sustainability that it mentions “thinning in a designated area” and wondered if it is only done for invasive species or do we have some areas to thin where there are no invasive species. Chair Grunwald referred Mr. Hartley to page 1 of the Summary, Goal 4, second Objective re “increasing growth rates of existing forest trees through thinning and by planting native trees...” Mr. Farr explained how trees compete for survival; some are winners by stealing resources from other trees. We can help by **controlling invasive species to help native species**. We can open the canopy for more sunlight to help shrubs, birds. The State is looking for what we are inspired to do, what we want to accomplish for our forests. For a town small like Roosevelt, a grant for \$25,000 could go a long way. It is a 50% match, but that can be done by volunteer services. Mr. Farr was asked how it is calculated. For regular folks, it is \$23.00 an hour, more for professionals.

Last, Chair Grunwald went over the Summary Notes on Page 4. This Plan takes in only trees on Borough property. **Assunpink** is interested in what we do, perhaps can be helpful, as they have some resources. They do not have a Forestry Management Plan. We have had dialog also with the County. If we have a Plan, it may help Assunpink move up in rank for obtaining a Plan. They are interested in the direction we are going in. When we get approved status, we will be covered by certain **liability protections** for hazardous tree situations under the **NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act**. To achieve/maintain Approved Status, we must be approved by the NJ State Forester and meet certain annual training requirements. For 2017 two individuals (one municipal employee or elected official and one volunteer) must complete CORE Training. Also we must write a Report on tree-related expenditures, etc. Implementation of this Plan will require involvement of both the Environmental Commission and Public Works.

Chair Grunwald asked if there were any other questions. There were none, so he called for a motion to **adopt this 2017-2021 Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)**. Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Stacey Bonna that this Plan be adopted. It was unanimously accepted. Those with pictures of our forest were asked to supply them. Forester Ron was thanked for his input.

The meeting was returned to its original format.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Chair Eitan Grunwald and second by Mr. Nicholas Murray that the minutes of April 19, 2017 be accepted. These minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on p. 14, under Appointment, line one, change “Borough Council appointed” to read “*Mayor appointed*”; on p. 15, under Forest Management, line 6, change “founding” to “*funding*”. and on p. 16, under Old Business, Repair/Replacement, line 3, change “are understood” to read “*are no longer understood today*”; and line 7, change “Diana Lowrie” to read “*Diane Lowrie*”.

Also on p. 16, under Trail Kiosk, lines 4-5 , change “we need to write up a request...” to read “*we need to submit a Budget Revision request to the Recreational Trail Grant Program.*” On page 17 under Sustainable Jersey Certification, paragraph 3, line 6, change “Chair Grimwald” to read “*Chair Grunwald*”. On p. 17 under Public, line one, change “Rainey Hartley” to “*Rainy Hartley*”. Ms. Bonna abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Tim Hartley reported that the main business that evening was the Application from a resident who wanted to put up a fairly large storage facility in the rear yard. There was no action, as it was decided to hold this over until the Planning Board Attorney could be present. The next Planning Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, as Tuesday is Primary Day (voting).

**REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Council Representative Stacey Bonna reported discussion about storage (a shed) for Environmental Commission equipment such as Trail items, etc. Chair Grunwald added that we have about **\$2,500 left** in recreational funds. We had discussed funding a kiosk at the Assunpink entrance to the Trail which would leave about \$800. He had spoken with Kelly/Public Works/Borough Hall about a chain saw and a storage shed, also at a cost of about \$800. Both the chain saw and shed are in the Budget approved. Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned that there is also stream monitoring equipment that could be housed in the shed. Chair Grunwald explained that this **Sustainable Jersey Grant** money must be spent by May 2018.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS (Continued)**

Invasive Plant Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz reported that on June 3 (Saturday) members of this Committee will plant the **Butterfly Park** with an assortment of native plants. She invited all members to participate. They are working on the **Sustainability application**. Also there will be a **4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration/picnic** on Tuesday, the actual 4<sup>th</sup> this year, at the local school. This Committee would like to have a table. Chair Grunwald asked for suggestions on what we might do. Last year went well with emphasis on invasive species identification, and for the more advanced, we had scientific plant names. Also we had a bucket of stream water, so people could talk about the contents. We also had a map to show Trail improvements. Some ideas for this year are a spinning Wheel of Fortune, but no money involved, perhaps have small gifts for the younger children. Ms. Walz mentioned that this year there will be no Fire Truck Parade. Ms. Walz has some concerns about local turnout, now that there is no Parade. Ms. Stacey Bonna will help Ms. Walz with planning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

News is that **garlic mustard is edible!** Also the Pocket Park is now on contract for being mowed. Steve Taylor helps by mowing in the back of this property.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss said that there will be stream monitoring on Saturday, June 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. She is sending out e-mails to all interested parties. **Andrew Garcia**, our Watershed Ambassador, will be here.

Trail Update – Member Nicholas Murray reported that **Trail markers** were installed. Also the school children had a Nature Walk. He installed two new **puncheons** between Rochdale and North Valley and noticed some tire tracks. He is curious how they are getting onto the Trail. They may be using the puncheons. He also installed another puncheon in the stretch between Tamara and the Sewage Plant. Ms. Kimberly Felong has also seen tread marks. Ms. Mary Tulloss suggested putting signs up in these areas. She added that there are signs on Lake Drive citing no ATV's etc. because of people riding in the public land on their ATV's and also in the street. The signs say "No ATV's and cites the Ordinance". Chair Grunwald said we have an Ordinance that prohibits motorized vehicles on the Trail. Mr. Ticktin added that the State maximum fine amount is \$1,250. Other comments were that maximum fine amounts are set by State Law, but our quoting them gets complicated and perhaps expensive. We could warn them, keep it inexpensive, put signs around the Trail. Ms. Tulloss can e-mail a copy of the Lake Drive sign. Ms. Stacey Bonna said she is willing to make some yellow signs, possibly laminated, for posting. Ms. Rainy Hartley, member of the public, felt people know better than this!

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Trail Kiosk - Chair Eitan Grunwald reported that Ms. Diane Lowrie is waiting to get a Plan from Fish's Wildlife that we can put in our **Budget Revision Request** to the State. It will be passed on to get approval for revision to the project.

Trees Cut Down Behind Farm Lane - Re the trees removed behind a property on Farm Lane, it might be good to know the next step. There are some stakes now at the end of the property, no stumps now, but a small mound. Chair Grunwald said that it is not our role to enforce, but the situation is of interest and there is need for follow-up, as it may still continue to be a problem. It is Code Enforcement that should deal with this.

#### **NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:**

Recommendations to Planning Board re: Landscaping Code - Ms. Mary Tulloss asked if the Borough has a **Tree Ordinance**. **Code 22 deals with Landscaping**. This Commission should check, as Code 22 applies to new subdivisions, developments, not to existing housing, individual homes or local folks. Our job, as the Environmental Commission, is to provide input to our Borough Council and Planning Board on developing Ordinances. It was felt that maybe we should have someone look into existing Ordinances, check if we need a Tree Ordinance, etc. Ms. Tulloss felt we could pass a Resolution to recommend developing standards regarding planting native species, not invasives. Ms. Tulloss added that Hightstown has guidance paperwork and recommendations to help homeowners. Something like this could be a handout.

**PUBLIC: None**

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, on motion by Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Kimberly Felong, this meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:

  
Ann M. Kassahun