

July 19, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 7:05 P.M at the Borough Hall. Chairperson Eitan Grunwald presided and called the Roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Bettel, Bonna, Grunwald, Hartley, Murray, Tulloss, Walz,

Absent: Felong (Alt-1), Ticktin (Alt-2)

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 Notices on the public bulletin boards 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."

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Ms. Beth Battel and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss that the minutes of June 21, 2017 be accepted. It was noted that on page 23 under Reports of Committees and Projects, Forest Management, line 5, change "September 31" to read "*December 31*" These minutes were accepted unanimously with this correction. Mr. Murry abstained.

**CORRESPONDENCE/ OTHER:** No correspondence.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Chair Grunwald suggested that reports of the various Representatives be given with emphasis on matters that are relevant to the Environmental Commission. Ms. Stacy Bonna reported that in June there was a faulty pump problem. Another pump was ordered and installed; there were some problems, but they were solved.

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Tim Hartley reported that there was only one action, but not relative to this Commission.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:**

Forest Management - No Report

Invasive Species - Ms. Sharyn Walz spoke about how the milkweed really draws the **Monarch butterflies** and Chair Grunwald added that just yesterday he was at the Borough Hall and saw a Monarch butterfly there and how amazing it is that they find the milkweed. Ms. Mary Tulloss

congratulated our Commission for our activities at the **4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic**. The spinning wheel game was a huge success with the children. It was made by Steve Taylor, even made a clicking sound as it was spun around. The questions for the children were at different levels so that they could all be successful as well as have a learning experience. There were small items that the children could all win something. Our Environmental folks worked in shifts, but most stayed near our site most of the time and a good time was had by all. Chair Grunwald added that it was a very busy table and the children had a great time.

Chair Grunwald also mentioned that the question had been raised whether or not we want to make a recommendation to either the Planning Board and/or the Council about a policy for planting on Borough property. Our Borough Code deals with new site development. After discussion it was felt it would be difficult to enforce it; however, they did think it was a good idea to perhaps **make recommendations to the Council about planting on Borough property**. Mr. Steve Taylor is researching this further, has checked other local towns (Hightstown, East Windsor, etc.) and their regulations deal with new developments or commercial properties. There is an application process and a chance to review, instruct and control. To have a blanket policy makes it very difficult to manage because you are always playing “catch-up”. Current Roosevelt policy lists some “nuisance” trees, a short list of problem plants, and for the Borough not to plant anything that is not native to North America. Ms. Mary Tulloss inquired about the “cottonwood” being listed as a nuisance and Mr. Taylor said they grow quickly, are not structurally sound, and are problematic. Chair Grunwald asked about plants that have been around a very long time and are well established but not originally “native”. Are they now considered “honorary” natives? Mr. Taylor mentioned global warming has been a factor, zoning lines are changing/re-drawn, and plants move around. Chair Grunwald reminded members that this policy would apply only for planting on Borough property, but we would like to encourage anyone in landscaping locally to implement and follow this same idea. The Borough can set the example. If policy is adopted, then we can publicize it. Chair Grunwald called for a motion to recommend adoption of this policy by the Borough Council. Motion was made by Ms. Stacy Bonna, seconded by Ms. Beth Battel, and unanimously accepted by this Commission. Chair Grunwald will inform the Planning Board that the Environmental Commission is in agreement regarding plantings on Borough property.

Stream Monitoring/Restoration - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that **they monitored the stream on June 29**. Andrew Garcia, our Watershed Ambassador, was not able to attend; and now he has finished his term with us. He has taken a summer job monitoring the Delaware River. Jane Rothfuss was unable to join us, but Chair Grunwald and I did the monitoring; Rod Tulloss came in the afternoon. The monitoring was from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., a very beautiful and full day. The team did not find as many **vertebrae** as expected, only 64 live ones; some were dead. Last time they found a little over 100 vertebrae. A healthy stream has many categories of critters. Procedure is to get in the water and scoop in proper places for vertebrae 20 times. The team missed having professional help at this time and hope to have a new Ambassador in the Fall. The day was cloudy, the stream similar to the last time. They **checked for pollution intolerance and the current**. The water was turbid, cloudy with sediment similar to the last time they monitored. This procedure came out last year and this year in the category called “indeterminable” which means “middling”. Records are kept and compared. The stream is not stressed. They will go out again in the Fall, early October.

Trail Update - Chair Grunwald mentioned that there is an Eagle Boy Scout who will be doing the **kiosk project as an Eagle Scout project**. He will do the fund raising, buying the materials, and the construction, so we can use our monies possibly for a second kiosk. This will be checked, is still in the decision-making process. Mr. Nicholas Murray added that he and Chair Grunwald walked the Trail to hang new signs. Some areas are overgrown. Chair Grunwald said that Mr. Mike Hamilton, Public Works, informed him that the **Trail** is scheduled for **clean-up** only in Spring and Fall. He feels the Trail could use some help in the Summer too, so he is checking if there are any monies to have it done. He is also checking Assunpink re Trail sections that run through them. Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned another Trail section that needs attention. Also it was mentioned that perhaps we could fund a **weed whacker**, use some volunteers to help. More on this.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Sustainable Jersey - Chair Grunwald reported that he heard from Sustainable Jersey today and none of our requested Actions were disapproved. Some need a bit of work. Credits can come from a number of directions. For example, one requires Planning Board action by adoption into the Master Plan. However, the Master Plan is being worked on, but not completed yet. This one must be checked for feasibility. The good news is that **none of our Actions were rejected; all are approved for now!**

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

Meeting Cancelled - The August 16 meeting is cancelled. Next meeting is September 27.

Millstone Elementary School Problem Solvers - Our members Mary Tulloss and Sharyn Walz reported that a group of elementary students at our neighboring school have done some research, have done presentations at their school, have gotten in touch with the Monmouth County Park System and their **Environmental Commission**, and have gotten into an international competition in Wisconsin and took home 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Ms. Sharyn Walz felt we should **get our Roosevelt children mobilized**, check this out. We could invite the Millstone group over to our Roosevelt School., get some ideas for our young folks. We have several members also involved with our School. There is a Garden Club at our School because the children wanted a "Pizza Garden"!

**PUBLIC:** No Comments

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, on motion by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Beth Battel, this meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Attest:

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Ann M. Kassahun