

CORRECTED

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 17, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, **April 17, 2019**, at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahun.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Felong, Hartley, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Ashburner-Alt 2

Absent: Dermody, Monteleone, Margotta-Alt 1

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT:

To show that proper notice of this meeting has been given, Vice Chairperson Murray stated that the minutes indicate: "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by filing with the Borough Clerk, by posting on bulletin boards at the Roosevelt Borough Hall and Roosevelt Post Office, and by publication in the Times of Trenton and in the Asbury Park Press on **February 7, 2019.**"

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: None**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and seconded by Ms. Kim Felong to approve this evening's Agenda. This was unanimously accepted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Kim Felong and seconded by Mr. Mr. Nick Murray to approve the **March 20, 2019 minutes** with with the following correction: On **page 10** under **Forest Management, line 9**, change "**Dermody**" to "**Ashburner**". Correction on **page 10** under **Sustainable Jersey for Schools** title, take out "for Schools". Title will be **Sustainable Jersey**. On **line 3** of this section, take out "**Mary Tulloss**" and add "**Sam Ashburner**" and on **line 5**, take out "help us with school activites" and substitute "help the Borough receive credits". **Line 8**, omit sentence "There was discussion.....our next meeting." Also on **page 10** under **OLD BUSINESS, Butterfly Garden**, correct "**new butterfly**" to read "**butterfly**". On **page 11** under **NEW BUSINESS, Recycling**, correct paragraph to read : "**Many people are interested in recycling. There was concern expressed about improper recycling, despite the information in the Borough Bulletin article.** There was agreement we would include a recycling activity (table with permitted items and table with nonpermitted items) at the town **4th of July Celebration**. Ms. Mary Tulluss will be the game co-ordinator." These March minutes were unanimously accepted with these corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Mr. Hartley said there was no meeting.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:

Mr. Hartley *attended* the Council meeting. The only thing of interest to our Commission is that the Council is considering the Tree Removal Ordinance to prevent people from clear-cutting their lots because there have been several short-term residents who came in, cut down a lot of trees and moved on. Our Chairperson Michael Ticktin was also at this meeting. He found some Ordinances and passed them on to our member, Mr. Dermody, who is also on the Council Committee that will be dealing with this. We are very concerned about the cutting down of big trees and dangers to houses. Having an NJTP Ordinance with penalties in place would be a prudent thing to do. Mr. Taylor suggested that if the Borough passes such an Ordinance, a copy of the Ordinance should be provided to the appropriate agency in DEP with the request that they notify tree professionals, so that if they are called upon to do tree removal in Roosevelt, they will be aware of our Ordinance and not violate it. Ms. Mary Tulloss added that “unfortunately everyone does not hire professionals”. Chair Ticktin said “Many will do it on their own. The Ordinance will have penalties; they can be enforced! When the word gets *out the* Borough enforces penalties, then maybe the people won’t do it anymore!”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative - No Report

Forest Management - Mr. Murray presented **the Final April 2019 Report of the Ron Filepp Roosevelt Woodland Trail: Restoration and Linkages Project**. On February 3, 2016 the Trails Grant application had been approved and was awarded a matching grant of \$8,000. This **Report completes our Trail Restoration**. This Trail comprises three miles of a 6.6-mile-long trail network which was established over two decades ago and in great need of repair. Sections were impassible, portions overgrown, old footbridges rotting or washed away and impassable. The work was done: restoration and new footbridges, removing invasive species, making a link between two sections which was very complicated, construction of a new section, building a barricade to block trail entrance to the cemetery and redirecting hikers, just to name a few things done. Two informational kiosks have been constructed and placed at two trailheads along the Trail, tools purchased. A copy of this Report has been e-mailed to our Environmental Commission members. All paperwork has been completed and forwarded. This wraps up our Trail’s Grant. We can look into what we can do to keep our Trail in good condition in the future. We received 8 credits for taking some classes; we could use a few more class credits.

Invasive Plant Species - Mr. Steve Taylor reported the Trail Blazers that have “bled” through have been re-painted. The portions of the Trail that are managed by the Assunpink now have little aluminum arrows to blaze them, put those over the white blazers; this is the lower section by the Waste Treatment Plant, and the upper section east of Valley. They are aluminum discs. They planted Red Buds at the North Valley Triangle (Sam, Nick, and

Steve); also cleared debris from Spruce Lane Park 20-30 feet to the West, will be working on plantings soon at the back of the Borough Hall. Chair Ticktin asked Mr. Taylor to tell us where the best place is for the Milkweed on Borough property, then we will check with Public Works for that area. They don't know where the best area is. Mr. Taylor is growing Milkweed plants now for the Monarch Butterflies (indangered species).

Stream Monitoring - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that they begin in May, but will actually monitor the stream in June.

Sustainable Jersey - Ms. Kim Felong reported that she has had difficulty in getting through to the Sustainable Jersey coordinator, Maureen Jones. She finally heard back from Ms. Jones who helped her navigate the website and suggested she begin with updating the expired actions. The first is the *establishment* of an Environmental Commission, then the other two include the formation of a Green Team and that of a Creative Team. The former consists of all the current members of our Environmental Commission and the latter consists of Roosevelt Arts Project members. Since Ms. Heidi Monteleone is a member of both organizations, Ms. Felong will reach out to her to see if she can provide summary of RAP projects that took place over the course of 2018 to now. Of these two actions the formation of a Green Team is mandatory. Other areas that need updating are community education and outreach, increasing citizen engagement, innovative community projects, and the Buy Fresh Buy Local Program. The deadline for application is June 2 of this year. We will begin by uploading any documentation we already have, and any proposed actions we choose to take. We will then wait for approval by Sustainable Jersey. Once approved, we will have time beyond 6/2 to complete the actions. Chairs of the E.C. subcommittees will be asked to provide supporting documentation of annual activities.

She feels she needs some teamwork, so she spoke with Member Nick Murray about the "Green Team". Chair Ticktin confirmed that this Commission is the "Green Team". We will need a list of "Green Team" activities for them also. She will make a list of farm stands within a radius of Roosevelt. . She would need a Resolution and would have to submit a plan. Some projects can be done again. There needs to be an Annual Accomplishment Report of the Environmental Commission. Also we would need to increase citizen engagement by community outreach. She said she will be able to give Sustainable Jersey whatever documents they will need and keep us informed. **The deadline date to apply and show them what we have planned is June 2. Our bronze certification expires in 2020.**

Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that we should hear more in May about Sustainable Jersey School Activities.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Tim Hartley informed the members that there will be a meeting this coming Monday from 7:30-9:00 at the **Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Cherry Hill Road off Route 206 in Princeton**, by a group with interesting speakers on empowering New Jersey to be fuel line

free. There are many concerns and **mixed feelings on nuclear plants and pipelines** going through New Jersey. States cannot stop the pipelines; it is Federal jurisdiction. Mr. Hartley will pass this link along to those interested.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Mary Tulloss informed the Commission that she would like to attend the **Jersey Summit** meeting to be held on June 14. Tickets are \$35. Motion was made by Ms. Tulloss and second was made by Mr. Sam Ashburner for this Commission to approve sending Ms. Tulloss to this Jersey Summit Meeting. This was approved unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Nick Murray and second by Ms. Kim Felong, this meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Ann M. Kassahun