

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 19, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:05 P.M. We were not at the Borough Hall; **this is a “Zoom” meeting.** Members adjusted their recording equipment. Chairperson Ticktin stated that all who speak should state their first and last names slowly each time before they speak, so members will know who is speaking. The Roll was called by Secretary Ann Kassahu .

ROLL CALL:

Present; Ashburner, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Silverman - Alt 1

Absent: Dermody, Felong, Hartley

Public: Mr. Ben Johnson was present

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT:

To show that proper notice of this meeting has been given, **Chairperson Michael Ticktin** stated that the minutes indicate: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by notices published in the Times of Trenton and in the Asbury Park Press on January 24, 2020 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office. This meeting is being conducted by **“Zoom”**. Notice of this meeting was given on the Roosevelt Borough Website.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion to approve this Agenda was made by Mr. Nick Murray and second was made by Mr. Sam Ashburner. This was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Mr. Nick Murray and second by Mr. Sam Ashburner to approve the July 15 minutes with some minor corrections. This was accepted unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:

Mr. Tim Hartley, Planning Board Liaison, was absent, so no Report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:

The Council Liaison was not present, however our Chair Ticktin attended and said that there was nothing permanent on the Bamboo Ordinance and the Tree Ordinance was passed in June. Their Budget was introduced; The Environmental Commission amount remains the same. The Council will vote on the Budget this coming Monday.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative - No report.

Forest Management - Nick Murray reported that they printed the Trail Maps from Diane Lowrie last week and they are placed at the Trail kiosk box, the area by the Water Treatment Plant and up near the Cemetery. We are trying to get some grant money, trying to see what our options are, as we are committed to our forest lands. We may be able to get some grant money from Sustainable Jersey to **have a Forest Manager**. Chair Ticktin asked Nick to look into this further. Member Mary Tulloss asked "if we had the year's goals for Forest Management in the paperwork, and if they are being meant for a year, and if we need to write a grant to fulfill some of these goals. She would be willing to work on a **grant for a Tree Inventory**." Mr. Murray said there were public goals for a five-year plan. Some were met. Some were to collate a Tree Inventory, to **publish articles in The Bulletin**, to complete a Tree Inventory, survey. Some were out of our budget. He felt that we could do a "Tree Inventory". Ms. Tulloss added that "She could work on this; it would help us go for other grants." Chair Ticktin felt this was a large job with our thousands of trees of many species. Mr. Murray felt this information is helpful to establish the ages of our large trees and when they might come down. Ms. Tulloss said "she noted that most of the trees that **came down** recently were "**oak**" **trees that looked healthy**. There is an **oak problem** recently." She felt we should keep track of trends like this. Chair Ticktin asked "which trees we are talking about, those on public lands, private properties?" The trees in this study should be those in the **Borough-owned areas like Green Acres, Triangles and Streets**. Ms. Ellen Silverman added that the "Tree Inventory should note not only the tree type, but its state of health and age." Ms. Tulloss asked Mr. Murray to work with her on writing and **applying for a grant** for funding this tree work. It may be difficult to get help this year. Mr. Murray will work with her. Chair Ticktin explained that the Electric Company has control of the wires that light up our town. That doesn't mean they are paid to take good care of our trees. Winds take down trees. People do complain about the Electric workers, but they are taking care of **their** power lines which are among our trees. In closing, Messrs. Murray and Taylor got rained out this past Sunday; they were going to trim trees on the Trail! Maybe next weekend, depends on the weather. Also of interest, Ms. Silverman mentioned hearing that due to the weather, residents of New Jersey should take precautions with chemicals against local increases of the **Spotted Lantern Fly**.

Invasive Plant Species - Mr. Steve Taylor was absent. Ms. Ellen Silverman mentioned an Invasive species called **Mile-a-Minute** that smothers other vegetation. It is in the State Green Acres area near part of Harry Parker's property.. It is on the western side of No. Valley Road, North of Homestead Lane. This will be looked into.

Stream Monitoring - Ms. Mary Tulloss is recruiting volunteers to help with monitoring. She reported that the beaver dam water level had risen back up to the place where Tim Hartley had marked, but she thought it also could have been because of the rain and she checked last night and the water had receded. Mr. Sam Ashburner thought that the beaver may not be there anymore. No one has seen that beaver in more a than month. Ms. Tulloss mentioned a big tree which came down by the culvert looked healthy, but it completely blocked the path. It has been cleared away, except for some debris there.

Sustainable Jersey - Mr. San Ashburner reported that in late July our Application was unlocked by Sustainable Jersey and they gave us several points on feedback of actions that were either incomplete or old; so he, Ellen Silverman, and Kim Felong are working on this by gathering some material that Sustainable Jersey requested. Mary Tulloss is also working with them. Kim has reached out to Nick Murray. They are gathering additional information requested and we will then submit that information to Sustainable Jersey. Ellen Silverman is working on Creative Inventory. They may have to do this as "on-going" and put out a questionnaire in our Borough Bulletin and in other places to get feedback from the Township to be able to apply for Inventory. She would like permission to put in for a questionnaire for feedback for David Herdstrom in charge of "Rap". Mr. Ashburner said we have over a year to re-submit because they extended the deadline. Since our Application is almost done, he thinks we may re-submit it as soon as possible. Chair Ticktin said if we submit early, that would give us time to fix any problems. Ms. Silverman would like to request an update from the Green Team, which will be given to her. Mr. Murray suggested we get a plaque to put up at our Borough Hall showing we are working with Sustainable Jersey. This will be looked into.

Old Business - The Environmental Commission unanimously approved [Motion by Mr. Sam Ashburner and Second by Mr. Nick Murray] the changes that Ben Johnson and Chair Michael Ticktin recommended regarding the proposed Bamboo Ordinance.

New Business - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Sam Ashburner and second by Ms. Ellen Silverman, this meeting was ended unanimously at 8:16 p.m.

SUGGESTED CHANGES TO ORDINANCE 2020-03*

[8.16.20]

(BAMBOO ORDINANCE INTRODUCED 03-09-2020)

CHAPTER 12: PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

12-6.2 Definitions

C. *Buffer Zone* – A distance of **two (2) feet from any lane, street, or road, whether public or private, or from any neighboring property.**

12-6.3 No Planting of Running Bamboo.

C., 2., a. The barrier itself shall be composed of high density **polyethylene (HDPE)**, with a minimum thickness of **60 mil**.

C., 2., b. Each portion of the barrier shall be joined together by the use of an **all-plastic connecting system**.

C., 2., c. The barrier **itself shall be 30 inches deep**, with 2-3 inches of the barrier protruding above ground level around the entire perimeter of the bamboo.

C., 3. Whether planted or growing in a container, as described herein, all bamboo plants shall be located, trimmed and maintained so that no part of the plant **extends beyond the Bamboo Property Owner's property line**.

12-6.4 Regulation of Existing Running Bamboo.

B. Running Bamboo Property Owner(s) shall take all necessary measures to ensure that any Running Bamboo on their property does not exist within any Buffer Zone. Such measures shall include, but are not limited to, cutting down, **digging out** and removing Running Bamboo existing in the Buffer Zone and physically removing or poisoning the rhizomes or spraying any regrowth for several years until the Running Bamboo is dead and, if Running Bamboo is permitted to remain outside the Buffer Zone, installing **a HDPE barrier that is 30 inches deep, with 2-3 inches of the barrier protruding above ground level**.

12-6.7 Violations and Penalties

- A. Whenever Running Bamboo as defined by this section is found planted in the ground on any plot of land, lot, or any other premises or place, a notice of violation shall be given to the Running Bamboo Property Owner, in writing, giving said owner **ninety (90)** days to remove or abate the same. **If the Property Owner chooses to contract with a company to have this work done, a signed contract with the company must be obtained within thirty (30) days. A completion date will be mutually agreed upon by the Code Enforcement Officer, the property owner, and the contractor.**
- D. Any person violating this Ordinance who fails to abate the violation after notice shall be subject to a fine, not to exceed **\$100.00**, plus court costs, for each day on which a violation has occurred, and for which the property owner has been found guilty. Each day on which the violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense under this Ordinance.

- **SUGGESTED CHANGES INDICATED IN RED.**