

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

May 19, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Michael Ticktin on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNIhPYTZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>

Meeting ID: 325 186 5085

Password: 968068

One tap mobile +16465588656,,3251865085#,,#968068# US (New York)

+13126266799,,3251865085#,,#968068# US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 325 186 5085

Password: 968068

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 on January 26, 2021 and in the Asbury Park Press on January 27, 2021 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.”

The Roll was called by Chairperson Michael Ticktin

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Ashburner, Kim Felong, Mike Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Ellen Silverman, Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss.

Absent: Nick Murray.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA: Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public for the agenda. Ms. Harley would like to thank the Environmental Commission for replacing the puncheon on section B and C. The public portion for the agenda was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion was made by Mary Tulloss to approve the agenda and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIASON: Mr. Hartley would like to offer a resolution that the Environmental Commission request The Borough Council to authorize Carmela Roberts to proceed with proposed mapping of the storm drain system of the town.

Motion was made by Mr. Hartley to approve the resolution and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIASON: Mr. Hamilton explained that the sewer line near the Sewer Treatment Plant was cleaned out. Well number 3 has been rehabbed and is back online. The water tower support beams are up to support the new cell tower antennas. Nurko Rd. flooding has become a problem and is being addressed with the farmer. The DOT Grant has been applied for to do future road work on Tamara Dr. A resident would like a walkway to be put in on the path from Pine Dr. to the school due to constant flooding. Mr. Hamilton is suggesting puncheons. Tamara Dr. to Rochdale path has a lot of silting and trees that are down. School graduation is June 10, 2021 is only open to graduates and their families due to Covid-19, and he would like to Congratulate them. A resident proposed a pump park near the horse farm or elsewhere. Mr. Hamilton suggested to put it adjacent to the school for safety concerns with traffic.

Ellen Silverman does not think a ramp/bridge on the Pine to the school path would work. Based on a reading that was sent out, Ms. Silverman believes a turn-pike would be better suited for that area. Ms. Silverman feels the pump park would not work at the school because of the soil and the Green Acres area has better drainage.

A discussion between members continues about the location of the pump.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative: No report

Forest Management- Kim Felong informed everyone that Ellen Silverman has already completed 4 credits in Wood Plants of the Summer and 4 more are still needed for Community Forest Management Program and it is open to non-commissioners. Ellen Silverman also took the core training, but another employee will also need to take the core training. Ellen Silverman asks for the list of accepted courses at Rutgers from Kim Felong.

Trails- Sam Ashburner reports that 18 new puncheons for the trails have been put in. The ends of the path have been sloped to make the trail easily accessible. On the path Rochdale towards Valley, 9 swamp bridges have been added. Cut lumber and 3 new puncheons are left over as needed. 21 people have donated 126 hours of their time to volunteer work on this project. But with a little more volunteer hours and the left-over lumber there is some work still to be done. Sam gives thanks to volunteers and Ellen Silverman for all their hard work.

Kerri and Steve introduce themselves.

Sophie Glovier from The Watershed Institute informs the commission that grant funding has been given to them to look at the impervious coverage on a town-by-town basis. A report has been prepared for Roosevelt that is available on their website. It includes how much impervious coverage Roosevelt has and how much annual storm water runoff and identifies places that are good candidates for green infrastructure to advert some of the runoff. There was discussion between Ms. Glovier and Ms. Silverman about a possible disconnect with a grant has also been submitted to Rutgers's to have them come out and do an Impervious Study.

Invasive Plant Species – Ellen Silverman was in touch with a Cub Scout Troop about a possible project for the kids to do related to invasive species. Stephan and Mary Tulloss discuss possible projects for the Scouts to take part in but essentially would like to know how to go about deciding what project is most acceptable for the Scout's age group and allowed. Mike Ticktin makes sure the Troop will not be using power tools and suggests asking the Troop Leaders what would the kids be interested in and what they think is acceptable.

Mary Tulloss brings up concern about invasive species by the bicycle path between North and South Valley. Ms. Tulloss asks Mr. Hamilton if public works are supposed to clear that area as they have in past years.

Stream Monitoring- The old way of stream monitoring is being transitioned into a new method, but Ms. Tulloss is having issues getting in touch with someone to begin training. Sophie Glovier is going to have Erin Stretz reach out to Mary Tulloss.

Sustainable Jersey- Ellen Silverman stated the Arbor Day tree give away was a success. 200 trees were given away and there were 12.5 volunteer hours. The Sustainable Jersey report was sent out. Ellen Silverman will attend the next hub May 25 and will report back. Ms. Silverman summarizes courses available. There will be a decision announced on 2 Grants that have been applied for. The Sustainable Grant will be accepted or denied in the beginning of June. The ANJEC grant they will hear about it Friday, May 21, 2021.

The Tree inventory and Hazardous Tree Survey Grant will be coming up. The surveys will be \$8,500 and the grant will cover three quarters of the budget amount. Roosevelt will be responsible for 25% which is \$2,125. Ms. Silverman will discuss adding money to the grant for visual reporting to present to the public on the Roosevelt Borough's website.

There will be a webinar on how to apply for the grants and information to include on the grants to offset the dollar amount owed.

Old Business: Regarding the State Forestry Grant Application Ellen Silverman is concerned about securing the 25% the Borough will be responsible to pay. Mike Hamilton said he will have a finance meeting once more information is available on grant's acceptance. Ellen Silverman suggests fundraising for the balanced owed if the Borough cannot come up the funds needed because projects have been stuck due to lack of available funds.

Ellen Silverman suggests a study should be done regarding the puncheons. She would like everyone to look into the turnpike and find the best place to get supplies and materials. Mr. Ticktin will talk to the municipal engineer to get additional information on the cost and procurement of materials.

Kim Felong asked about leaf pick up that was discussed in the March meeting. Mike Hamilton has brought it up to Council and will bring it up again. Ms. Felong asked if it is against the rules to dump the leaves and yard waste onto the Green Space. There was a discussion between members if yard waste is specifically mentioned in the ordinance and Mike Hamilton said he will check on the exact wordage. Ellen Silverman would like to offer leaf pick up but also feels a compost education should be offered.

New Business: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Ticktin opened the meeting to the public.

Mary Tulloss asked Sophie Glovier if a study can be done on the wetlands. The need of puncheons recently is increasing and there should be a study as to why. Ms. Glovier suggests getting in touch with the Director of Science and Stewardship after the meeting in June.

Chairperson Ticktin closed the public forum.

ADJOURNMENT: Kim Felong motioned to adjourn Ellen Silverman offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn.

Kaitlyn Ippolito, Secretary