

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Ellen Silverman on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:01 P.M. via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3251865085?pwd=L1RWNlhPYTZZdUZ5R3piT0NZWHhuUT09>

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 Ellen Silverman 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 the Asbury Park Press on February 11, 2022 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office."

The Roll was called by Secretary Maria Dellasala

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Sam Ashburner, Mike Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss (arrived at 7:04pm) Ellen Silverman, David Teich

Absent: Nick Murray

**SWEARING IN OF NEW AND REAPPOINTED MEMBERS:** Mary Tulloss, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman, David Teich (Alt 1.), Erin Schneider (Alt 2.). Secretary, Maria Dellasala swears in Mary Tulloss, Dave Teich and new member Erin Schneider.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:** Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for the agenda. Seeing no public comment, the public portion for the agenda was closed.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion was made by Michael Ticktin to approve the agenda and second was made by Dave Teich. This passed by unanimous vote.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY:**

C/Hamilton nominates Michael Ticktin as Vice-Chairperson to the Environmental Commission, with a second from Mary Tulloss. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Michael Ticktin nominates Maria Dellasala, as Secretary to the Environmental Commission, with a second from Mary Tulloss. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023 AND JANUARY 2024:** February 15, 2023; March 15, 2023; April 19, 2023; May 17, 2023; June 21, 2023; July 19, 2023; August 16,

2023; September 20, 2023; October 18, 2023; November 15, 2023; December 20, 2023; January 17, 2024. Motion made by Ellen Silverman to accept dates as stated, with a second from Michael Ticktin. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 21, 2022** – Mary Tulloss made a motion to approve the December 21, 2022, minutes with a second from Michael Ticktin. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Nick Murray has submitted his resignation as a member of the Environmental Commission.
2. C/Hamilton has forwarded to everyone a Best Management Practices for Pond Levelers and Culvert Protection Systems – A guide for using flow devices to coexist with beavers.

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:** Tim Hartley states he has nothing to report but asks if anyone knows anyone who would like to be appointed to the Planning Board.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** C/Hamilton states the Council is reviewing the topic of speed bumps and the beaver problem. Residents have come out against speed bumps and their negative impact on Fire and First Aid calls. A study will be done looking for alternatives. Beavers are again flooding property and a call has been placed to Peter Winkler, at the DEP asking for any suggestions. We have learned a lot about the Beavers such as; as the climate warms they help cool the waters.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Forest Management:** Dave Teich reports on tree cutting - 3 cutting projects, 2 up by the cemetery, 1 was a huge tree, 23 inches in diameter that came down across the path. Another one that Ellen Silverman, Dave Teich and Dave's wife Anne went out to clear out, it was about 100 yards from the tree on the path, lots of branches, we got it all cleared out. Steve Taylor and Dave Teich went out on the path not too far from deli, near the deer enclosure, we cut it into manageable pieces and left it.

Sam Ashburner reports about the woodworking project – wood duck boxes were ordered and will be assembled over the weekend. There are either 2 or 3, after they are put together Sam will come up with a plan for replacing the ones that are currently on the trail

**Invasive Plant Species:** Steve Taylor states for the enclosure he has placed stakes at what will be the new 4 corners. Dave Teich cut down a tree that I expected would have fallen on the enclosure fence and that was a good thing. Steve Taylor re-located a white pine seedling that was inside the enclosure to the other side of the trail. Ellen Silverman ordered netting, t-posts and pipe to make the gate, he is happy to report the t-posts have been painted and the gates are put together, when we get some warm weather we can work on them. Ellen Silverman and Ellie Wall removed some invasive species from around the trail head around Tamara.

**Stream Monitoring:** Mary Tulloss reports this coming up weekend will be our stream monitoring. Corki and Jane will be doing the monitoring. Mary Tulloss went out to the watershed as we were in need of some more chemicals. It was deer management season for them

so she was not able to walk on their trails. Mary Tulloss inquired if they had any problem with beavers, they do not. Therefore, they had nothing to share. We were planning to put some stakes in the creek along the bicycle path, so we could monitor the height of the water, we were never able to accomplish that. Could we get a public works person to help with that?

C/Hamilton states he will look into the possibility of getting a public works person to help. Mary Tulloss says we should place them as soon as we can.

Tim Hartley states we purchased gauge strips that we were going to get in place in the culverts, N. Valley Road, Rochdale, Tamara and the sewer plant, we haven't gotten around to getting them installed yet. If we get help by public works, it's not a lengthy process. Mary Tulloss states we can add that to our water monitoring.

Ellen Silverman states she signed us up for the Stream Clean Up in April.

Sam Ashburner states he was down at the beaver dam by the bike path, 1 tree looks like it's been half chewed through, it's skinny and looks like it's going to fall towards the bike path and there is also a large tree on the same side that chewed in a way and looks like it will fall into the water. The tree that looks like it is going to fall towards the bike path should be taken down. In July 2020 Sam Ashburner wrote an article for the bulletin about beavers, with concerns and benefits.

**Sustainable Jersey:** Ellen Silverman reports we ended the year with 60 points that were in an approval level and we had several expire. Since then we re-instituted and revamped some that were expired, that brought out points up to 115. Report due date is end of February. There is a program out there where they will provide a college student that will help with certain of the sustainable actions. One of the programs is Wild Animal Control Plan (Beavers) – unfortunately Mary Tulloss does not have time, maybe Sam would be interested. Sam will think about it. Ellen Silverman states we still have a way to go to be certified on a bronze level (150 points). Ellen Silverman also states that she will be meeting with Mary Beckish, Millstone Township Environmental Commission, and the Recycling Coordinator. Working on some plans for recycling for Sustainable Jersey. Mary Tulloss states if we can get points for recycling presentation, everyone is still confused on what is recyclable. Mary Tulloss states there is another project for a student, they can go around to peoples recycling and see if they are recycling correctly.

**Community Involvement:** Start up meeting that's going to be about the theme for community involvement; Roosevelt Families helping with the Environment. Ellen Silverman came up with the idea of a pot luck dessert and discussion. Dave Teich states that on our first meeting maybe people can come up with list of topics that people can choose from. We need to know what we can present – someone would lead, someone would present - Dave Teich can do Rain Barrel, Wood Burning and add topics to the list and as Ellen said it would be desert and discussion. Set dates 1 time per month, first meeting would be January 31<sup>st</sup>. We would have a question and answers period. Mary Tulloss brought it up at the Education Foundation meeting, they thought any announcing of the event would be on their Facebook page, however, they have not had any listing of events for any other organization, if they did that others would want them to announce also. They will consider and re-visit at their next meeting.

**Old Business:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PowerPoint presentation “The Roosevelt Water Story” by Hilary Wilder**

**The PowerPoint presentation and Hilary’s remarks on each slide is attached at the end of the minutes.**

**Everyone on the Environmental Commission thanks Hilary Wilder for a great job!**

#### **Public Comments:**

Rainy Hartley states that when they moved in 50 years ago there were woods behind them and they loved it! Now that there is a swamp there much more bird life and they are enjoying it!

Tim Hartley states that there is a map that is not up to par, on the Stormwater, where do we stand on getting a better map. Ellen Silverman replies that she and Hilary Wilder had a meeting with Engineer, Carmella Roberts, and the cost to the borough for a new map would be between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

Discussion takes place between the Environmental Commission members regarding the Stormwater map.

Tim Hartley makes a motion that the Environmental Commission recommends strongly to the Borough Council that the Stormwater mapping proposal that has been submitted by Carmella Roberts be approved in the foreseeable future, with a second by Michael Ticktin. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Commission discusses the re-classification of Roosevelts Tier on Stormwater Management.

Ellen Silverman welcomes Erin Schneider to the Environmental Commission.

C/Hamilton thanks Michael Ticktin for his role as Chairman of Environmental Commission, he’s done an excellent job and the meetings always ran very well, very efficiently. Michael Ticktin says Thank you! Sam Ashburner says absolutely, yes!

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Ellen Silverman offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:49 P.M.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary