

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 21, 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, June 21, 2023 at 7:15 P.M.

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by notices published in the Asbury Park Press on March 21, 2023 and the Times of Trenton on March 22, 2023 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, Michael Hamilton, David Teich, Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Tim Hartley, Erin Schneider, Ben Johnson

Mary Tulloss reads the following:

Land and People Acknowledgement

The land and waterways upon which the residents of the Borough of Roosevelt gather and live are the ancestral and unceded Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the areas we call New Jersey. We honor this ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape Nation. May we live in harmony, caring for this sacred land.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA

Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for comments on 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 Michael Hamilton. This passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 17, 2023 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023, minutes with a second from Michael Hamilton. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. ANJEC – Sail on the Hudson aboard The Sloop Clearwater Day Sails: July 28 – August 6 in Alpine NJ

2. SADC - Preserved Farmland Workshop – Monday, June 12, 2023 from 9:30am-11:30am – Chesterfield Municipal Building Conference Room
3. ANJEC – 2023 Climate Mini-Series
4. ANJEC – NJ Wind Works Rally: Harnessing the Wind for a Lasting Renewable Future, June 10, 2023
5. ANJEC – Governor Murphy Announces Landmark Inland Flood Hazard Rules
6. ANJEC – Summer 2023 ANJEC Report
7. US Forest Services – Notice regarding Federal UCF IRA Grant Portal Issues
8. ANJEC – NJ Wind Work Rally – Saturday, June 10, 2023
9. ANJEC – Local Environmental Matters
10. Jersey Water Works – Town Hall Style Opportunities (5 sessions) from 12:00-1:00pm Tuesday, June 20, Thursday, July 27, Thursday, August 24, Thursday, September 21 and Thursday, November 9

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: No Report.

1. **REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** C/Hamilton states that there were three presentations on the council agenda at the June 19, 2023 meeting.
 1. Potential Winery Proprietors – A presentation was presented to the Borough Council by Mike Pouch and Beverly Tepper of Crosswick Creek Winery. They are potential buyers of Footlight Farms. They give an overview vision for a winery business, their background of their expertise and skills and their hopes for growing 3 acres of grape vines on the property at 64 Lake Drive. They have 7 acres currently in Allentown and would be able to start production as soon as they get approval from the State Alcohol Beverage Control. Mike Pouch explains the improvements they plan for the property which would include a shop, office. They will be making use of some existing buildings including the board room. Maybe down the road they will have a wine garden. Beverly Tepper hopes that this could also be used as a community meeting place for the people of the town.
2. There was a Public Hearing regarding the County of Monmouth Municipal Park Improvement Grant Program 2023 for Restoration of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Amphitheater and Grounds located on that part of Block 3, Lot 33 (Roosevelt Public School). C/Herrstrom explains how the Amphitheater has been in the need of restoration and Monmouth County offers grants to towns that qualify, grants can be up to \$500,000 of which the Borough would be responsible for half. We put together a committee for input from all groups within the Borough. At this point we are looking for public comment and see the concept design. C/Herrstrom introduces David Sitler, from ETM Associates. David Sitler gives a presentation of the Conceptual Design.
3. Ellen Silverman presented Hilary Wilder’s Storm Water Presentation to the Borough Council.

C/Hamilton states that the budget was introduced at the Borough Council Agenda meeting on June 19, 2023 and will have a public hearing on July 17, 2023. There will be a slight increase to the tax rate. There was also a discussion on the Ordinance being introduced regarding the administrative fee for the use of the meeting room, this was brought to the borough’s attention by our insurance carrier (JIF) that groups were not submitting Certificate of Insurance for the use of the meeting room. The JIF mandated that this be done. ASAP.

The public has responded that it doesn't feel welcoming. They can't believe that they need this rider. The public hearing is still open and we are looking for additional feedback from the residents. The borough is having its 4th. of July celebration, we've bought 2 grills. H&H used to loan them to us, they no longer own the business that's why we had to purchase the grills. Looking for volunteers. Discussion took place on roof repairs to the Water Treatment Plant. There is a small leak, it is still under discussion. We do have estimates but want to make sure it's not just a maintenance issue. C/Hamilton gives a brief report on a grant from JCP&L regarding the installation of electric charging stations. C/Ticktin makes a motion for C/Hamilton to pursue the grant with a second from C/Tulloss, all are in favor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative: No Report.
- Forest Management: Ellen Silverman reports that Kevin Scibilia, who is a tree expert will do our street tree inventory and hazardous assessment for \$4,500.00, he cannot do the forest area since he does not have the forestry certification. He recommended Heather Gracie, Ellen Silverman reached out to her and they will be meeting early in August. Ellen Silverman anticipates getting a quote from her in early August. Kevin quote has been sent to the borough council, for a contract.
- Invasive Plant Species: Ellen Silverman reports that when she spoke with Steve Taylor, he stated that he would like to wait until the fall to do any work, since there is so much poison ivy. Mary Tulloss states that the beavers might have helped with some of the invasive species now there are a lot of daylilies. Mary Tulloss reports that she ran into Wayne Cokely, who used to be the Environmental Commission Chair, he said the trail map there are carpenter bees eating into it.
- Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports stream monitoring was done last Friday Jane & Corkie & I will be going to the watershed on June 29 or 30, it's a quality assurance test that we have to do. They just want to make sure we're doing it right.
- Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports that we did submit our application for Bronze, even though it was shy of the requirement. It has come back, we were accepted for 100 points; we need 50 points in one more category for bronze certification. Last time we can apply is July 27, 2023. Ellen Silverman thinks we can get points for the water story and for the navigation plan. Ellen Silverman has suggested to the borough council to go back and review our stormwater management ordinance. Water conservation education would be an easy action for us. Ellen Silverman asks both C/Hamilton and Michael Ticktin do we have an open space plan? They believe it may be part of the master plan. Ellen Silverman will send to C/Hamilton what she has on the Navigation plan and a sample resolution for him to review and bring to the borough council. Ellen Silverman reports water conservation program would be encouraging people to have rain barrels, we would discuss irrigation, we would put our flyers and we would do a mailing. Ellen Silver discusses Green Acres infrastructure planning and implementation.

- Dessert and Discussion: Dave Teich reports everything is going well, last night we had our discussion on composting, we are getting new people at each meeting. We have added to the You Tube channel the dessert and discussion sessions; we now have four.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Participation in the 4th of July town event: Mary Tulloss states the picnic is from noon till 4:00pm and was thinking that maybe we could have 1 hour periods at our table, Ben Johnson will be at the table. Mary Tulloss will not be available for the Environmental Commission table the first hour, she will be performing with the Tai Chi group. Sam Ashburner states he will let Mary know if he is available. We will do our best, Steve Taylor has the games and Kin Felong will bring the stickers. ANJEC has a game on water conservation, they will get back to Mary, they also have a pinball game on water. Mary Tulloss was also thinking about doing something with recycling. Also maybe we can do a QR Code for adopting a storm drain. Dave Teich will get the QR Code to Mary Tulloss.

C/Hamilton leaves at 8:12pm

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on EC mission statement and setting goals for 2023: Ellen Silverman hands out Mission Statement and Goals and asks everyone to review each item and bring back suggestions at the next meeting. Ellen Silverman also discusses how to help the seniors in our community and help promote their independence.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:36p.m.

No Public Comment

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:36p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Dave Teich offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:36p.m.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary