

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 20, 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, September 20, 2023 at 7:04pm.

The Roll was called by Chairperson Silverman

ROLL CALL:

Present: Tim Hartley, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman, Ben Johnson

Absent: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, Mary Tulloss, Erin Schneider

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.

TimHartley 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 at 7:05pm.

No Public Comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda was closed at 7:05pm.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 16, 2023 – Tim Hartley made a motion to approve the August 16, 2023, minutes with a second from Michael Ticktin. Minutes were passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. NJ Shade Tree Federation 98th. Annual Conference – October 26 & 27, 2023 – Cherry Hill, NJ
2. Sustainable Jersey – Save the Date for the 2023 NJ Sustainability Summit
3. ANJEC – Now Accepting Nominations: 2023 Environmental Achievement Award & 2023 Municipal Leadership Award
4. The Watershed – Save the Date: Assunpink Roundtable on October 20, 2023
5. ANJEC – 50th Environmental Congress – In-Person Session: Friday, October 13, 2023 9am-5pm at the Conference Center at Mercer County College, West Windsor
6. NJDEP – Applications due 9/10/23 for the Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards
7. ANJEC – Environmental News Digest – August 23, 2023
8. ANJEC – Way of the Ramapough Event – Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 7pm at Liberty State Park
9. ANJEC – Environmental News Digest – September 6, 2023
10. Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon – November 14, 2023
11. ANJEC – Fifth Annual Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference on September 30

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley reports that the Planning Board met on September 19, 2023 and there were 2 items on the agenda;

- Memorialization of the resolution for 29 Pine Drive.
- Proposed Ordinance 2023-07 sent to the Planning Board by the Borough Council amending the Zoning Ordinance to include Wineries as a permitted use in the Borough’s R-AG/400 Zone. Tim Hartley states that Mr. Thomas highlighted the key points of his winery report to the Planning Board, however, there were questions about tasting rooms, wine bars and noise. Discussion regarding hours of operation was also discussed and it was determined that the ordinance should state that the wineries must follow State regulations. Tim Hartley stated he was in favor of wineries but was concerned about wine bars and if there can be a limitation placed on them by the Borough Council. Monmouth County has 3 functioning wineries and Mercer County also has 3 functioning wineries, there are 4 parcels with potential development in the Borough. Michael Ticktin states if there are only 3 in Monmouth County it is extremely unlikely that that would happen. Tim Hartley states he’s thinking long range, Roosevelt is unique, it is one of the few towns that retain its basic land use and would be nice to remain that way for the future. Dave Teich states that Spotted Lantern Flies love vineyards.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Michael Ticktin reports the Council referred the Winery Ordinance to the Planning Board, there was a proposed ordinance which died and a new ordinance. Nothing address the noise problem or parking problems, there should be something in the ordinance that addresses offsite parking. Tim Hartley states they are addressed in the Planners report, he proposed addendums and amendments to the ordinance. Michael Ticktin states we have a noise ordinance and it should be made explicitly that the noise ordinance applies. Once the ordinance is introduced by the Borough Council it will again have to go back to the Planning Board because it’s a brand new ordinance.

Ellen Silverman states there was also a report on the Stormwater Management, she wrote an open letter to the Mayor and Council. Ellen Silverman recommended a sticker ordinance and

related to a small town like Roosevelt and recommended the Stormwater Institutes version. Carmella Roberts from Roberts Engineering did a report on what was needed for Stormwater Management, the whole permit program. Ellen Silverman felt the report was very general and misleading and seems she is still encouraging the council to litigate. Tim Hartley asks if the Stormwater Management goes as far as street basins? Ellen Silverman states that is not true and states the new reality is with the amount of rain we have been getting MS4 has to address many of these things.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- Administrative: No report.
- Forest Management: Ellen Silverman reports we do have some work on the trails. We need to do a walk through and assess them because we've had quite a bit of rain and things happen on our trails when it rains. Next month is the art walk and that part of the trail always needs a little love. Tree Inventory – Ellen Silverman met with Heather Gracie and sent to the Clerk to award her a contract. Needs to be done by the end of the year so we can get our grant money. Heather would like to start by the middle of October. Tim Hartley ask if the tree inventory only covers the trees on Borough property along streets rights of way? Ellen Silverman responds; only the open space under the Borough's jurisdiction. Tim Hartley was asking about the Greenbelt areas along the nature trail? Ellen Silverman responds it overs that and our other Green space areas, as long as she can get back there. Kevin Scibilia is doing the street trees and hazardous assessment. He will start on October 14, 2023, and if he doesn't finish he will be back the following weekend. Heather Gracie wants to start on October 16, 2023 and will have a 3-member team doing a plot survey. Part of the grant money we will be doing a video on the importance of trees in Roosevelt Borough.
- Invasive Plant Species: Steve Taylor states he has no report but hoping to get out and do some work soon. Ellen Silverman asks if he has projects he is concentrating on? Steve Taylor responds the trail map from last year some places along there to target.
- Stream Monitoring: Tim Hartley reports that he and Ben Johnson have been to Empty Box Brook, the gauges we have one solid month of measurements, we go out 1 per month. We have data from August 1st. and September 1st. So we have 3 reference measurements. 1-at N. Valley (bike Path) 1-at Rochdale and 1-at Tamara. No place yet by the sewer plant, can't get back there yet, the idea is to wait until the fall when the leaves are off the trees, maybe we'll be able to get back there then. What we did observe was; no change on the bike path, 1-inch higher change on Rochdale and Tamara was 1-inch lower.
- Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports they haven't opened our account yet so we are not sure if they accepted our actions or not.
- Dessert and Discussion: Dave Teich reports last month we did the seed library, seed saving, fall vegetable garden, microgreens and sprouts, this month we will be doing wood burning for the homeowner. Ellen Silverman reports that Every Saturday in September through November at 10 N. Valley Road we have seed library, (native seeds), some fall plants (take one leave one) and crop swap. See Saving Workshop will be again at 10 N. Valley Road on September 30, 2023.

Workshop on indoor gardening in November, January will be winter sewing – all at 10 N. Valley Road.

- **Goals Committee:** Ben Johnson reports that he and Mary Tulloss met and discussed the goals, selected 2 of the 5 initial goals and broke out action points. Ellen Silverman asks questions on the action such as will they be articles, talks... Ben Johnson states there are different forms on how to do but first we need to answer are these the goals we want to work on. Some of these we are already acting on. The PFA goal – will we speaker come and talk to us or are we going to have a group do research and gets back to us, are we going to write 3 articles for the paper? Discussion takes place regarding whether these are actions or goals and also a discussion takes place on a Recycling Coordinator; the Borough Council needs to speak with the Millstone Administrator regarding our shared service agreement. Michael Ticktin also thinks that discussing Community Solar would be another goal to look at. Ellen Silverman states that some towns try to get cleaner energy for the whole town and apply for higher percentage from Electric Company. Dave Teich states he would be willing to put some time into the Solar and Recycling. Sounds like we can get o board with some of these actions. Tim Hartley states he has an interest in the clean energy and recycling, but does not have the time currently. Ellen Silverman recommends that we continue with discussion at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Open Space Plan** – Ellen Silverman reports she's done some research on the Open Space plan and we do not have an official open space plan. What we would need to do is inventory and mapping, which is in the Master Plan. Once the tree inventory is done, we will have additional information which could be channeled in to an Open Space Plan. Michael Ticktin states that the Planning Board would have to be the lead agency. Tim Harley states that the Borough has X number of parcels of land, and either they are owned by the Borough or individuals or companies or the State Green Belt. Roosevelt unlike most other communities has very little land up for grabs, so, we could easily ask our Planner to give us a map showing developed parcels. Michael Ticktin states we already have that map. Ellen Silverman states that's only the first part of the plan, the documentation that shows the inventory, but we have goals to set and how we maintain the land. What are the plans to maintain the open space. Michael Ticktin states we do have 10-acre zoning. The tree ordinance limits how many trees people can cut down. Steve Taylor states management when it's a small area, because there is no re-seeding. Ellen Silverman states if we have an open space plan there may be money out there to help maintain the open space. Steve Taylor state if you commit then you have to do forever. Tim Hartley asks what would the intent of an Open Space Plan be? What do we mean by maintain? Every acre of land is maintained throughout the country. Unless we can be more specific of what an Open Space Plane would be? Ellen Silverman states that that would be part of the discussion, what is the goal. It is in the ballpark of the Planning Board; we can help and give them information and just letting it be is not going to work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ellen Silverman states she was not able to make it to the Millstone Township Environmental Commission meeting due to the rain the night of the meeting roads were all flooded. Will try again for their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:13pm.

No Public Comment

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:13pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Tim Hartley offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:13pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary