

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

November 15, 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, November 15, 2023 at 7:03pm.

The Roll was called by Chairperson Silverman

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Sam Ashburner, Michael Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, Ellen Silverman, Ben Johnson

Absent: Dave Teich, 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.

**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 at 7:04pm.

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 Tim Hartley. This passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2023** – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the October 18, 2023, minutes with a second from Tim Hartley. Minutes we passed by unanimous vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. ANJEC – Local Environment Matters
2. ANJEC – Environmental Commission Action Needed!
3. ANJEC – Local Actions to Combat Warehouse Sprawl: November 1, 2023 at 6:00pm.
4. ANJEC – Proposed NJ Turnpike Expansion Project
5. DEP – Model Tree Ordinance Finalized

## **REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON:**

- Tim Hartley reports that at the October 17, 2023 Planning Board meeting the only item discussed was the Winery. The Planning Board had not received the revised wording from the Council on the ordinance as of the meeting. The proposed owner had two changes requested; removal of the 900 square foot limit on the size of the retail space and the limitation that 90% of the grapes must be grown on site. Both were acceptable to the Planning Board and returned to the Council.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON:** Michael Hamilton reports due to the election the Council's meeting was November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Council did accept an additional \$23,0000 from the Fund for Roosevelt for the Amphitheater project. The Fund for Roosevelt is also picking up all the soft costs associated with the project. Tomorrow there will be a full Amphitheater meeting here at Borough Hall at 7:00pm, the architect will be at the meeting and the full committee we will discuss the plan and see if we can tweak it. Ordinance 2023-16 regarding the winery was tabled because there were a lot of questions and concerns by the council and members of the public. An updated Ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting. The Best Practices Inventory was also discussed; it's a State Program, municipalities are rated by the State on how they are doing on all different levels, we are in the upper end of the scale. The State can cut your State Aid, but we are not losing any State Aid. Residents also came out to speak about roosters, some were concerned with crowing and some concerned with roosters being taken away from town. A complaint was filed with Animal Control and Animal Control gave a notice stating they had 10 days to remediate the problem. No one will be taking any roosters away from anyone. There was also discussion on the winery ordinance. A new winery ordinance will be introduced at the next borough council meeting. Michael Ticktin adds that he asked the council to look at the noise ordinance and make sure that no new ordinance supersedes it.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- Administrative: No report.
- Forest Management: No report. Ellen Silverman adds that we went out and stabilized some puncheons and there is a lot more to do. If you have time to go out there, but not a one-person job, please do. They have been out doing the tree inventory, we are now waiting on the report. The street tree inventory – they will be out to do a verbal report at the council meeting on December 18. Kevin's report is a list of the trees and conditions, Heather's is more of a health of your woods with recommendations. With the tree inventory project, we are also doing a video. There are soft costs of \$40.25 would like to pay for it with the Environmental Commission budget. Ellen Silverman will right up a requisition.

- Invasive Plant Species: No report, however, Ellen Silverman spoke with him he will be coming up with some dates.
- Stream Monitoring: Mary Tulloss reports that some chemicals were picked up at the Watershed and will have stream monitoring the 3<sup>rd</sup>. weekend of the month, as usual.
- Sustainable Jersey: Ellen Silverman reports that Ellen Silvermann and Hilary went to the Sustainable Jersey luncheon and we have a brass plate to put on our wooded plaque to show we obtained our bronze certification.
- Dessert and Discussion: Ellen Silverman reports that the last dessert and discussion was about mushrooms – small but lively group. Next dessert and discussion will be on food waste.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Goals Committee: Ellen Silverman states we now have our goals, now we just need to have a calendar on how we will get the messages out. If the goals committee will now get volunteers to fulfill the goals. Mary Tulloss and Ben Johnson will work on it. Mary Tulloss to report back in January on a Goals/Action calendar.
- Open Space Plan – Ellen Silverman states this is still on why do we have to re-visit this. The only one we have is from 2006 and there is suppose to be a new one and asks Michael Hamilton if he could help find it. There were plans in the 2006 report for remediation which were never done. Ellen Siverman suggests we speak with the County about the pocket park and add a rain garden in the Open Space. Michael Hamilton states that if the winery goes through there can be issues with people taking wine into the park. Again, Ellen Silverman asks Michael Hamilton to find the Open Space Plan.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ellen Silverman states she sent to everyone the Environmental Commission yearly report, please review let Ellen Silverman know if she missed anything. Ellen Silverman would like to have the yearly report to submit to the council in December. Michael Ticktin makes a motion to accept the yearly report with a double check of the budget, with a second from Michael Hamilton, All in favor.

Tim Hartley reports that he is planning on going to the borough council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. to try to get the ball rolling on adopting some language on hazardous tree removal. There is an ordinance about obtaining a permit if you want to remove a tree at the same time the borough is having an expert tell us if there are dangerous trees on our streets. He would like to have the council pass ordinance requiring private citizens to remove dangerous trees. This would be in addition to the municipal code, property code.

Ellen Silverman also states that at the luncheon yesterday, Brian Thomas asked if we would support a bottle return bill, Ellen Silverman responded that she would bring this up at the next meeting. Michael Ticktin asks if a bill has been introduced? Ellen Silverman does not see one.

Mary Tulloss asks about a big truck on Lake Drive – were they cleaning out the storm drains?  
Michael Hamilton states we did ask the County to clean out the storm drains.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 7:57pm.

No Public Comment

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 7:57pm.

**ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin** motioned to adjourn Sam Ashburner offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:57pm.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary