

CORRECTED

August 19, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bonna, Grunwald, Ticktin, Tulloss

Absent: Janowitz, Lowrie, Oatis, Van Salisbury-Alt 1, McBride-Alt 2

Chairperson Grunwald stated: "Let the minutes show that adequate notice of this meeting as required by Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the Open Public Meetings Law has been provided by posting notice on the public bulletin board at the Roosevelt Post Office and Borough Hall. A copy of this notice was e-mailed to the Asbury Park Press and the Times [Trenton] for publication and filed with the Borough Clerk on January 26, 2015."

MEETING CHANGE:

The September meeting has been changed from September 16, 2015 to Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. Formal action will be taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Mr. Michael Ticktin to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015. The minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on page 24 under Report of Council Representative, last sentence to read "The Environmental Commission concurs with the recommendation of the Planning Board that, to the extent possible, parking and driveway paved surfaces for the Emergency Services Building be constructed of permeable material." and also on page 24 under New/Other Business, paragraph 2, under Invasive Plant Species, line 6, omit "...use mugwort against these species." to read "...use mugwort as an example." Correction should be made to page 25 under Public, line 3, word "permeable" should be "permanent".

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

The Planning Board did not meet in August.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Ticktin reported that Mr. Tom Curry is working on coordinating a fall *branch collection* with Hightstown. The Council discussed the Emergency Services Building and voted to

authorize the bond issue. Mr. Ticktin explained the process so Commission members could better understand. This means that the Borough can now borrow money to continue this project. Our problem has been that we are so small that we had no credit rating to borrow in the market. The Monmouth County Improvement Authority used to want to see our rating, but have decided that is useless, as we are so small; so they borrow the money and we borrow it from them and get the best rates from them because they have a triple “A” rating. Details are being worked out.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Bob Clark and Chair Eitan Grunwald met. They are looking into the cost of making a **plan** and what sources are available to do this work. Chair Grunwald contacted five sources for preparation of these plans. Three responded and two are qualified to do this work; one will meet with us and the other quoted us \$4,000. Chair Grunwald has found out that there is a **Clean Communities Grant** available for a consultant to write up a plan; *grant money is available up to \$2,000 with a 100 per cent match*. If the work cost the quoted \$4,000, we would have to come up with another \$1,000 cash and also \$2,000 in volunteer hours. This grant money is Federal and pretty much assured, if we qualify. To get the grant, the plan would have to be done by a professional. Comments were that perhaps we could come up with a plan on our own or check plans of other communities for guidance. We could see what information is needed. Implementing a plan involves costs. There is State **funding** available through the Community Stewardship Intensive Program Grant. The plan must be approved by the State and must meet the standards of two organizations: The New Jersey Forestry Service and The New Jersey Community Varsity Council. We would need two people (a municipal official and one other) to take two days of **training**. The grants are 50% matching up to \$25,000. There is so much that needs to be done, we might have to limit work to only a portion of municipal forest. When a plan is submitted, making references to other adjoining properties is beneficial. Also the Borough would have to authorize volunteer labor. Messrs. Grunwald and Clark will meet with Assunpink to inform them of our many concerns. Also this committee feels the community also needs to know more about our problems, concerns and efforts, costs, and the need for volunteers. It was felt that we do need some professional guidance, people with expertise. Mr. Ulrich Bonna, resident, commented that forest management also involves supervised harvesting of some of the trees. Mr. Ticktin added that the Borough should be notified of this service provided by foresters who supervise the **cutting and selling of trees**.

Invasive Plant Species - **No Report**. Steve Taylor, Bob Clark, and Diane Lowrie are on this committee and will meet September 2.

Stream Restoration - Michael Ticktin, Mary Tulloss, and Jane Rothfuss are on this committee. Mr. Ticktin reported there are several aspects of streams, like the banks and blockages which cause formation of large segments of stagnant water. He contacted the **Mosquito Commission** as they have authority to go in by plane and even do **aerial photography** to get data. He will follow up, hopes to get the stream flowing. Ms. Mary Tulloss is preparing a document now on what was done about ten years ago. The Tullosses and the local school both have stream monitoring kits from earlier. Chair Grunwald added that we need some **volunteer stream monitors**. Empty Box Brook is our current major concern. He added that Roosevelt was awarded a grant some years ago but the permits weren't issued. We need to know more about what happened re that earlier grant and what we need to do now.

Storm Water System - Chair Eitan Grunwald reported that the Environmental Resource Inventory recommended that we get a better idea of conditions via a **current map** which involves research and is expensive. We need to know how much water is going into the stream and the velocity. We need an estimate and proposal for this work. Mr. Tim Hartley is working on this. Mr. Ticktin informed the Commission that that Mr. Tom Curry of the Council Public Works should be contacted.

PUBLIC:

Mr. Bob Clark, resident, had some concerns about the proposed **new Emergency Services Building** buffers and the scale and impact of the project. He mentioned if the old building is restored or there is a new building, water volume and velocity of water coming from channeling are considerations. Ms. Tulloss mentioned that the local school had a water problem, water was actually flowing back into the building. This was remedied, water channeled better. Mr. Clark felt this Commission needs to be in touch with the Council. Mr. Ticktin said that the Council is aware, the Department of Environmental Protection must approve, and agreed that this Commission does need to be involved to make recommendations. Plans will be in the office and Mr. Ticktin will keep Chair Grunwald informed.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Roosevelt Arts in the Streets Request - Chair Grunwald was informed by Mr. Isaac Menda that this group will be applying for grant money, so we will hear more later.

Borough Bulletin Article - There will be an article on Mugwort in the next issue. The Bulletin wants more articles from us.

Agenda Changes - Omit the first Public section; change Reports of Sub-committees to Reports of Committees; place Old Business before New/Other Business.

OLD BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss, this meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Attest:

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary