

September 21, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Eitan Grunwald.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bonna, Grunwald, Janowitz, Lowrie, Ticktin,

Absent: Oatis, Tulloss, 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."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Stacey Bonna and second by Ms. Diane Lowrie to approve the minutes of August 19, 2015. The minutes were accepted unanimously with corrections on page 27 under Report of Council Representative, last line changed from "fall woodchip" to read "fall branch collection" and also on page 28 under Reports of Committees, Forest Management, first line, change "The are looking" to read "They are looking". Also line 5, change "Clean Communities Grant" to "Green Communities Grant ...a plan;" next line delete "Roosevelt's part...\$25 an hour)." Two lines down change "This grant money is Federal.." to "This grant money is State..."

CORRESPONDENCE:

PlanSmartNJ - Invitation to 2015 Annual Dinner at the Westin Princeton of Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ, November 12, 2015, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. Business Attire
Sponsorships \$5,000 to \$300, Dinner \$200

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

The Planning Board did not meet in September.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: No Report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chairperson Grunwald has met with several knowledgeable parties since our last meeting. This evening he reviewed a three-page Forest Management Feasibility Assessment with the Commission based on the ERI Recommendations about invasive

plant species, piles of plant debris, trees downed by strong winds and/or winter storms, and consideration of fire hazards. We must consider not only the threat of wildfire in Roosevelt, but realize that the forest protects our drinking water by capturing rainfall, providing natural filtration, and stores water in the ground for our use. A healthy forest absorbs runoff to prevent soil erosion, habitat degradation and property damage, and gives us our woodland greenways that make our community beautiful. It is necessary that we have a plan to manage our woodlands, discuss our plan with State and County officials, as there are other public woodlands within Roosevelt (NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife, Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, and Monmouth County Perrineville Lake Park). Resources needed are volunteers to work with a qualified forester, agency officials, and qualified contractors who provide equipment and tools or some items might have to be provided through funding based on a workable plan.

Chair Grunwald explained that funding depends upon the kind of plan. There are two main plans as follows:

Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) is used primarily by Shade Tree Commissions to plant, maintain, remove trees along streets and in parks and other public properties; also for forest preserves. It is a five-year plan that must conform to CFMP Guidelines, meet standards of the NJ Forestry Service and NJ Community Forestry Council and be approved by the NJ DEP Forest Service. Funding is by (1) NJ DEP Green Communities Grant (GCG) to create a plan. We could submit, has rolling deadline, new cycle begins Oct. 1, one year to produce a plan to NJ State. (2) NJ DEP Community Stewardship Incentive Program Grant (CSIP) to implement a plan. We need two people to be Core-trained. We will not be ready in time to submit to the State, could be ready for 2017.

Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) can be used for public lands; is a ten-year plan prepared by a NJS Approved Forester/USDA Technical Services Provider, must conform to specifications and standards of, and be approved by NJS Forest Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We could use this for planning and implementation. Funding is by (1) NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Practice #106, to create a plan, and it is in our range. (2) NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Multiple Practices, to implement a plan, is competitive so we need to be ranked. Rather than grants, FSP funding is in the form of cost-sharing payments through a USDA contract.

Chair Grunwald explained how the Forest Stewardship Plan(s) work. It is rather complicated in that Roosevelt would have to partner with a private/nonprofit partner through a Management Agreement, create a 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan for implementation. Nonprofits have to meet strict State and Federal standards and approvals. We access this by partnership arrangement. There is also a \$5,000 matching grant, Community Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant, for wildfire hazard, has a first-come, first-served basis.

Chair Grunwald requested that the Environmental Commission pass a Resolution to (a) authorize solicitation of quotes from foresters to develop a CFMP/FSP, and that this Commission serve as a partner to EQIP funding, and (b) at the appropriate time, request approvals from the Borough Council to contract with the selected forester; apply for funding to develop the plan; and fund the remaining amount not covered by other funding. As there are some deadlines to consider, part (b) of the proposed motion would keep the process moving.