

October 21, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, October 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, Ticktin, Tulloss,

Absent: Oatis, Regular Vacancy, Van Salisbury-Alt 1, McBride-Alt 2

Resignation: Lowrie

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 boards 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 Mr. Michael Ticktin and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015. The minutes were accepted unanimously; Ms. Tulloss abstained. Mr. Ticktin added that the our Agendas place Old Business before New/Other Business.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Ticktin reported that the Planning Board did not meet in October.

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Ticktin reported that the Council met, but there was nothing relevant for this Commission.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Forest Management - Chairperson Grunwald passed out a revised Forest Management Feasibility Assessment for review by the Commission. Pages 1-3 are the same up to the Determination (page 3) which has small update at the end to show that "The Environmental Commission voted on September 21, 2015 to authorize solicitation of quotes from foresters, to develop both a Community Forest Management Plan and a Forest Stewardship Plan, and provide a qualifying non-public partner for Roosevelt to access NRCS EQIP funding."

Page 4 has been added to pick up with Requests for Quotes which were sent to all 13 foresters who have proper credentials (NJ DEP Approved Forester and a USDA Technical Service Provider); however, only three responded:

Shelterwood Forest Managers \$5,720 plus \$85/hr to develop Management Agreement. These are new people who have not responded to our requests for more information.

New Jersey Audubon Society \$4,900

They will not draft a Plan for us, but would assist us. They are the only qualifying non-public partner we have been able to identify that claims to have received USDA NRCS EQIP funding for forest stewardship on public lands in New Jersey.

Farr Forestry Services \$4,750

Their price is lower, but they cannot deliver all we need.

There was some discussion by Chair Grunwald and Mr. Ticktin about the harvesting of timber as a management of forests, looking at the forests as a source of agricultural products (State view) vs. conservation ecology which deals with habitat and wildlife. What these views have in common is the removal of wood, as it is sensible to discourage unhealthy trees, add space for new trees to grow, consider fires, etc. It was felt that we need someone involved to protect our interests, to bring balance for our forests. The Audubon Society is primarily a conservation organization, not agricultural, best we be wise and use caution, write into our agreement our wishes.

This updated Assessment provided Recommendations subject to Council and Attorney approval:

- (1) that our Borough Council approve the New Jersey Audubon Society for services at their \$4,900 quote. Motion by Mr. Grunwald, second by Mr. Ticktin, unanimously approved.
- (2) that the Roosevelt Borough Council authorize submission of an application for a Green Communities Grant for funding to develop a Community Forest Management Plan that will qualify for NJ DEP CSIP Grants; Motion by Mr. Grunwald, second by Ms. Tulloss, unanimously approved.
- (3) that the Roosevelt Borough Council appropriate funds in the 2016 Budget to authorize payment for the municipal match not covered by other funding. Municipal match for both plans combined is expected to range between a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$5,500. Motion by Mr. Grunwald, second by Ms. Bonna, unanimously approved.

Invasive Species - Chair Grunwald stated that Ms. Diane Lowrie who was active on this Committee is not here this evening. Bob Clark and Ms. Sharyn Walz were invited to report. Ms. Walz stated that this Committee did not meet, however, they had some conversation that if we decide to go forward with the forestry plan, to be careful selecting foresters. Deer management is critical, but we could check Hopewell which has a deer management plan. They are hoping to invite someone knowledgeable to their next meeting. Chair Grunwald added that deer management is very expensive. He will prepare paperwork to be sent to the Borough Clerk and wants to be at the Borough Council meeting when this is discussed.

Stream Restoration - Committee members are Mr. Michael Ticktin, Ms. Mary Tulloss and Ms. Jane Rothfuss (ill recently). Ms. Tulloss reported she learned about the DEP Water Ambassador Program which does stream monitoring, a group we should get in touch with. We will need a number of volunteers; she will call the Ecology Club at the High School and a similar group at the Middle School. Ms. Tulloss said that we need to do some monitoring of our portion of the stream and also inspect the culvert for leakage. Mr. Ticktin added that the culvert is under the County, so their Engineering Department did investigate it and found it to be all right. The blockage is not in the culvert, is further down. He has talked with the Mosquito Commission and they cannot do aerial photography until the leaves are down. Mr. Ticktin is on the County Board of Health and has asked them to help and they will be meeting soon. They get information and then go to DEP for permits, etc. Problem is the stream needs to be unclogged!

Storm Water System - Mr. Tim Hartley is working on this, trying to get a much needed updated map. Borough Engineer Carmela Roberts had submitted a proposal early this year to the Borough, so Chair Grunwald will touch with Councilman Tom Curry to check files and revisit this issue, as an approval is needed to cover the cost of the map(s).

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Mary Tulloss attended the 42nd Annual ANJEC Environmental Congress at Raritan Valley Community College on October 9. She passed out a report of this event. Its focus was “**Fixing our Water Woes: New Jersey’s Bucket List**”. She reported this Congress was the whole day and very interesting. There were booths with items she picked up to share with our Commission. There was a keynote address by George Hawkins, great speaker, who said “If you want clean water, pay attention to dirty water.” He is now the CEO of the Washington, D.C. Water and Sewer Authority. They have pipes that carry both sewage and storm water, have a state of the arts plant. They are building pipes 10 stories under the city. Ms. Tulloss attended a morning session on **Storm Water Management**, the rules for storm water management. There was a speaker, Dr. Barbara Jones, from the Hightstown Environmental Commission; Ms. Tulloss is trying to make contact with her. Mr. Ticktin mentioned that we do have a Storm Water Ordinance. Sustainable Jersey gives points for adopting storm water regulations; perhaps we should check if we are eligible for these points. Ms. Tulloss attended the afternoon session on **Water Supply: Acting Locally in the Absence of a Statewide Plan**. Of interest is that New Jersey has the 4th lowest cost of water in the nation and water usage is shifting to summer and watering lawns because of dry conditions. Note that The Water Supply Master Plan was developed by NJDEP in 1996, was supposed to be updated and released every 5 years, but has not been released since 1996. Since that time we have been in drought conditions and it is known that aquifers and ground water is being depleted. Ms. Tulloss presented a **Resolution** prepared by ANJEC asking New Jersey Environmental Commissions to call for the release of the Water Supply Plan. Motion was made by Mr. Ticktin and seconded by Ms. Tulloss requesting that our Borough Council pass this Resolution. This was accepted unanimously and will be forwarded to the Roosevelt Borough Council for action.

Motion was made by Chair Grunwald and seconded by Mr. Michael Ticktin that beginning in **January 2016 meetings** be held at **7:00 instead of 7:30**. This was accepted unanimously.

Chair Grunwald emphasized that this **Commission needs members and volunteers**. There is a regular vacancy and another may resign soon. He encouraged members to invite friends to our meetings. We could advertise in the Borough Bulletin, check other organizations; next 4th of July might be a time to have a table.

PUBLIC: No comments

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Mr. Michael Ticktin, this meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Attest:


Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary