

CORRECTED

March 28, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at 7:00 P.M at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Michael Ticktin.

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Ticktin informed this Commission that Ms. Schlinski has resigned, so her name will not be called for Roll Call.

Present: Hartley, Monteleone, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss, Vacancy
Felong-Alt 1, Parker-Alt 2

Absent: Bonna

ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT:

To show that proper notice of this meeting has been given, Chairperson Michael Ticktin stated that the minutes indicate: "Adequate notice of this meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, was published in the Times of Trenton and in the Asbury Park Press on March 22, 2018."

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Ms. Tulloss and second by Ms. Felong to approve this evening's Agenda. This was accepted unanimously by the membership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Ms. Kimberly Felong to approve the Reorganization Minutes of **January 17, 2018** with the following corrections: Page 1, next to last line under Secretary, change "Ms. Kimberly Kelong" to Ms. Kimberly *Felong*"; Page 5, second paragraph, line 2, change "Nickolas Murray" to "*Nicholas* Murray"; also on Page 5, under ADJOURNMENT, change "Stacey Bonnna" to "Stacey *Bonna*". These minutes were approved, no abstentions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairperson Ticktin reported that we received an email communication from **ANJEC Community Stewardship Grants**. They give small grants up to \$1,500 to Environmental Commissions to support projects that will raise the profile of the Environmental

Commission. We will discuss this under New Business. There was an email from Ms. Jill Lipote to inform us that we can get trees cheap from the DEP. The problem is that we do not want to take them and find that our local people don't want them, because we have a lot of trees already. Ms. Mary Tulloss added that there are many trees down now at the foot of Eleanor Lane. Chair Ticktin added that this is State land. Ms. Tulloss noted that there seem to be old and downed trees but not much new undergrowth because the deer eat the new baby trees. It was felt that perhaps we should revisit this further.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Tim Hartley reported that the Planning Board will review the Recommendations of the 2017 Re-Examination Report further and he will give us an update. Under New Business the Council Representative reported that the Borough Council is considering a **Tree Ordinance** that we do not have yet. The Environmental Health & Safety Committee (Our Cody Parker is a member) is interested and other municipalities will be checked. This would be something our Environmental Commission would like to follow. Chair Ticktin felt it would be interesting to see what other towns are doing. Ordinances usually penalize people and he was concerned if we really want to make this an enforcement issue or, as Mr. Hartley mentioned, that the Borough might want to encourage people not to clear-cut their properties, yet everybody needs to be able to take down trees for different reasons. More on this....

REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Cody Parker, our new Council Representative, reported that there are quite a few problem trees, some down, at the local school. Contact him about tree problems. Ms. Mary Tulluss was interested in the problems of two big Oak trees on the School Property by the Amphitheater. Mr. Parker said that **Allen's Tree Service** is looking into these School tree situations. He reported that the Principal was all right about cutting them down, if necessary. Allen's has a quote on this work. Mr. Parker said that we usually have two branch pick-ups a year, free of charge, one at the end of April/May 1. Last year we had three. Notice will be given with information how to prepare the branches (size) for pick-up. Mr. Steve Taylor commented that when the cans are emptied, the recycle workers leave the cans in the street rather than putting them back on the side of the street where they belong.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Administrative - Mr. Nick Murray reported that they reviewed former Chair Eitan Grunwald's notes that were sent out to everyone, discussed program deadline dates and what and when they need to address such items as submitting the Annual Accomplishment Report, etc. which they did submit. This Committee is setting up a Contact Sheet for those on the Commission and those who volunteer. It is not on the web sight, but members should have this information to keep in contact. Ms. Felong was concerned about deadline to use up the funds; this will be mentioned in Forest Management Report.

Forest Management - Mr. Nick Murray reported that we watch the CEU's for the Core Training. We need an elected official to be core trained. There is an all-day course set for Saturday, April 8. Mr. Murray said he will check if this date is still available. Mr. Cody Parker said there is one at Rutgers in May. This is on the Rutgers Urban Forestry Website for fee information, etc. He will arrange to enroll. Mr. Parker said the course fee is about \$200. How should a person register and then get reimbursement from the Borough? Chair Ticktin should be called and he will authorize the process for reimbursement from the Borough, as the timing for registering is short. This was moved, seconded, and agreed upon by the members. Chair Ticktin will check where the funding will come from. Also, Mr. Murray called our attention to the fact there are some funds left from the Sustainable Jersey Grant to be used now before it expires to purchase a chainsaw and other items like safety glasses, ear protection items, chaps for protection. Motion was made and seconded by Mr. Murray and Ms. Felong to use up to \$450 of this remaining money to purchase these items to be used by this Commission and the Borough of Roosevelt. This was unanimously approved by the members.

Mr. Murray mentioned that we need to have a Proclamation and Ceremonial Planting at the Roosevelt School on Arbor Day, April 27. There will be the planting of new tree(s). We need to figure out what to plant, where it will be planted, etc. Chair Ticktin said we are expecting some young Cyprus trees from the State, will arrive soon. There are Red and White Oak trees there now. This will be worked out.

Invasive Plant Species - Mr. Steve Taylor reported that they have plants to put in at the "Pocket Park" (corner of Rt. 571 across from Horse Farm) on May 5 and 12. The deer have done a job on the Red Bud trees we planted earlier. He has some cages to put over the plants. We still have some Red Buds to plant on the Triangle at Homestead, April 24th or 27th. Volunteers let him know availability. There is Earth Day at the local school; Mary Tulloss said she will attend and help. We have some Milk Weed for this event. He reported that Japanese Knotweed is now growing on Rochdale. *Since branch pick-up cannot be coordinated in June, it will be in May.* There are three places to watch/address along the Trail: between Rochdale and Valley Rd which is shady, so plants grow slower; west of Rochdale, beginning of Trail on that side; and Tamara End, there is some Autumn Olive. Jill Lipoti will check the Phragmites between Rochdale and Tamara with him. Until they are blooming, you cannot tell which ones you have. Some are native and some are invasive. Kim has agreed to help with the Bulletin articles.

Stream Monitoring - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that stream monitoring is set for June; she will check with those interested. *Ms. Lowrie* will help, as she is a Biology Teacher and can identify what is found in our stream; *Ms. Lowrie's son, Iain*, will also participate.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Accomplishment Report 2017 - Chair Ticktin said that Former Chair Grunwald had prepared this Report in advance and it was submitted to DEP. The Mayor signed it and it was e-mailed to them; it is on record now. Those interested can receive a copy on-line.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS:

Hartley Absence - Mr. Hartley reported that he will be away soon; however, he will be in touch with the Planning Board. He mentioned that this is the Year of the Bird and the Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He was wondering if our Environmental Commission would like to take some action towards “birds” via education, sharing with the community, an article in our Borough Bulletin. He and his wife have seen many rare birds on their property, about about 50 species. Members Mary Tulloss and Kimberly Felong also check birds. All this could be an article for our Borough Bulletin!

Community Stewardship Incentive Program - Chair Michael Ticktin reviewed this communication with our group. It is an ANJEC article stating that they provide up to \$1,500 each to Environmental Commissions to support projects that do an advanced focus on Open Space Stewardship and helps to raise the profile of the Environmental Commission in the community. This takes in management, *preservation*, maintenance, restoration, and education. We have already preserved this “space”. We need some manpower to help us. The **project calls for 80 hours of participating:** materials, speakers, professional services, printing, mailing, advertising events, maximum food grant of \$100 allowed. *An Administrator* would have to do this paperwork. *We do not have a Administrator right now.* Some suitable projects are maps, inventories, plans to link open space and trails, multi town plans, species, management of species, habitat, stormwater, budget, resources, etc. etc. **Application due Friday, April 13.** Some long-term members mentioned Roosevelt’s long journey as advocates of Open Space Stewardship. For example, we have five (5) farms that were preserved years ago. *Mr. Ticktin* explained the processes, easements, etc. Applying for this present program gets very complicated and long, and the deadline is soon. No decision was made at this time.

OTHER:

Ms. Mary Tulloss reminded this Commission that for Earth Day at the local school, we provide the money for a speaker, usually \$200. Motion was made by Ms. Felong and second by Mr. Murray for the Environmental Commission to provide this \$200 to the Roosevelt School. This was accepted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business, on motion by Mr. Murray and second by Ms. Felong, this meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Ann M. Kassahun

Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary