

**CORRECTED**

August 15, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. at the Borough Hall. The Roll was called by Chairperson Michael Ticktin. He mentioned that Ms. Felong and Mr. Parker, who were absent this evening, have been appointed this past Wednesday night as Regular Members. Now we have two Alternate Member positions vacant.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Hartley, Murray, Ticktin, Tulloss Parker, Alt 2,

Absent: *Monteleone Felong, Alt 1,*

**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, and posted at the Borough Bulletin Boards and the Roosevelt Post Office on February 6, 2018."

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Ms. Mary Tulloss and second by Mr. Nicholas Murray to approve this evening's Agenda. This Agenda was accepted unanimously by the members present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Ms. MaryTulloss and second by Mr. Nicholas Murray to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on **July 18, 2018** with the followig corrections: On **Page 24** under Forest Management, second line, last sentence "He will get three credits..." to read "He will get **four** credits..." On **Page 25** under Afternoon Session, last sentence which reads "...when less than 5% of bags are **recyclable**, our stores full of plastic, and now off-shore turbines .are in our waters." This should be altered to read: "...when less than 5% of bags are **recycled** and our shores are full of plastic." Note change of word "recyclable" to "recycled." Omit the part about off-shore turbines. These minutes were unanimously approved with these corrections.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Tim Hartley reported that the Planning Board had no meeting this month, therefore no report.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Mr. Parker was not present, but there were no Environmental concerns.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Administrative** - No Report

**Forest Management/Trail Report** - Mr. Nick Murray explained that we still need a few more credits. Mr. Murray attended a course at Rutgers, received and passed out to our members a long **list of 38 Woody Plants of Summer by their Scientific Names and their Common Names**. He suggested that we circulate this list to the general Roosevelt public via our Bulletin and/or our website. Chair Ticktin felt we should do both. Mr. Murray explained that not all of these Woody Plants are native to New Jersey, but some are. He also said that he will be following the credits that our Roosevelt people are earning through attending various educational programs. We got four credits for our Forest Management Plan, plus the four and a half credits Ms. Mary Tulloss recently got. We still need a few more. Mr. Murray has reached out to Bryan MacDonald of the Forestry Service to confirm that our credits have been accounted for and applied to Roosevelt. There is some confusion about Ms Tulloss's credits going to another town, he thinks this has been straightened out. Mr. Murray awaits hearing from Bryan MacDonald about our credits soon. Chair Ticktin spoke to Cody Parker who is interested in taking courses too. Mr. Murray added that Mr. Parker has been **CORE-trained** and has received his Certificate of Completion. We have to have one elected official or employee of the Borough and one community volunteer to be CORE-trained. He will check this further and will instruct Mr. MacDonald to remove Eitan Grunwald's name (moved away) and add Mr. Cody Parker's name as our current CORE-trained person.

Mr. Murray has been in touch with Ms. Robin Middleman Filepp about setting up a **Trail Maintenance Day** in October or early November. We need to clean up the Trail and we have more materials to make more puncheons and new Trail Entrance signs to reflect the new Trail name. More on this, those interested please touch with Mr. Murray.

**Invasive Plant Species** - Mr. Steve Taylor reported that the next article for our Borough Bulletin on trees is entitled "Good Trees". He asked the members to touch in with suggestions.

**Stream Monitoring** - Ms. Mary Tulloss reported that on July 19, 2018 they conducted a stream monitoring at Empty Box Brook at the same location where they have monitored the past two years, between Rochdale and Tamara. Fairfax Hutter, our Americorps Watershed Ambassador, and Mary

Tulloss conducted the Biological and Habitat Assessment at the creek and also collected samples from under logs and submerged vegetation. Jane Rothfuss and Rod Tulloss worked with Fairfax and Mary on identification of macro invertebrates in the samples.

Fairfax usually monitors at high gradient, rocky bottom streams where the water is not as muddy as the Empty Box Brook. Samples were taken from the stream bank because of the muddy bottom and difficulty in walking the stream. We were just two days after rain; it is better at three days after rain.

The first year of the assessment 100 macro invertebrates were found, last year approximately 60, and this year only 5 were found! One was a hellgrammite which is an indicator of stream health. In addition, three fish, about two inches long, were found. The water was very cloudy and looked rusty, frogs jumping around. It was extremely difficult to find macro invertebrates because of all the matter in the water. Thought was to have a sample of the water tested at DEP or an outside company. **Ambassador Fairfax suggested that we could make Empty Box Brook a “DEP Ambassador Site”.** This would mean that DEP would monitor the stream at a *minimum* of once every 5 years. Ms. Tulloss asked Mr. Murray if his company works with sampling; he will check this out. A motion was made by Ms. Tulloss and seconded by Mr. Tim Hartley that the Environmental Commission would like our monitoring site on Empty Box Brook to participate in the DEP’s stream monitoring program. This was unanimously approved by the Commission and will be looked into further.

Ms. Mary Tulloss will register for a Citizen Scientist Seminar at the Watershed Institute to get ideas for recruiting volunteers to help with stream assessments.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Sam Ashburner is a newer resident in town who works at home and also walks the Trail at least three times a week. He is in touch with Mr. Nick Murray of this Commission, and wishes to offer his services. Chairperson Michael Ticktin said that our committees contain both members and non-members, so he suggested that he consider himself a member of the Trails Committee with Nick Murray. He was asked to send Chair Ticktin an e-mail that he would like to help in this way, and Chair Ticktin can forward it on to our Mayor and ask that he be appointed officially, as we have an **Alternant vacancy** on the Commission.

Ms. Mary Tulloss mentioned a workshop on September 14 to be held at the Watershed Institute and is called **Citizens’ Science Symposium**. That is what we need for Stream Monitoring. It talks about recruiting school children, etc. She would like to attend to, costs \$25. Also this Watershed Institute is in charge of all the stream monitoring in New Jersey. She would like to talk with them, see if they have any suggestions for us. She would like to have the \$25 cost approved for attending. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Commission bear the cost for Ms. Tulloss to attend

this training. She said that children from our local school used to have school trips to the creek. Mr. Tim Hartley was interested if the Commission wants to work with the school. No answer...

Then Mr. Murray mentioned **water lines breaking**, needing our **sewers** to work BUT how do we handle big water problems without money. Chair Ticktin added that the engineers recommended that we replace water lines at the courts. The design is bad, no loop for the water to go in and out. The other arguments are that they should go after the places where we have breaks, fix the waterlines while the pavement is up for repairs. The sewers are in even worse shape, not good environmentally. We know the problems, and they are nation wide. We have legitimate concerns, **an 80-years-old system**, so we need good information. *Ms. Tulloss has contact with East Windsor's Municipal Utility Authority and they have studies and options and will talk with us.* They need to make a decision about the Bond issue, but need an overall plan.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Bob Clark, 59 Lake Drive, mentioned that the Council has a committee, Environmental Health & Safety Committee, so anybody from the Environmental Commission could monitor what goes on when they meet. Committees can meet three at a time without giving a public notice. He suggested having a meeting, inviting the Public so they can participate and give them the results of any information they have in a timely manner, not stacked up, change this practice of meeting in secret. If he were an Environmental Commission member, he would pay attention to those meetings. There are many dangers like the Municipal Lift Station (at the Municipal Building) which could overflow into the environment. The one on Lake Drive is the one near his basement. They now have a gas generator there and a sophisticated alarm system also. Another problem is mosquitos.. It was mentioned that salt in storm drains is a problem, as it ends up in the creek.

The next meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in September.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business, on motion by Mr. Nick Murray and second by Ms. Mary Tulloss, this meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

*Ann M. Kassahun*

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Ann M. Kassahun, Secretary