

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 7:06 P.M.**

**Roosevelt Borough Hall, 33 North Rochdale Avenue**

The Regular Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Roosevelt was called to order by Chairperson Ellen Silverman on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:06 P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Sam Ashburner, Ben Johnson, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Michael Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Dave Teich

**ADEQUATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING STATEMENT:** Adequate notice of this meeting has been given, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, by notices published in the Asbury Park Press on January 22, 2024 and the Times of Trenton on January 25, 2024 and posted on the bulletin boards in the Borough Hall and at the Roosevelt Post Office.

**Environmental Commission Mission Statement**

1. To protect, preserve, and enhance the natural environment within our jurisdiction.
2. To promote sustainable practices and responsible resource management for the benefit of present and future generations.
3. To Advocate for environmental justice, ensuring equitable access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for all communities.

Goals: Short term goals for the next 18 months approved (approved by EC on 11/15/23)  
Environmental Education and Outreach of these subjects:

1. PFA'S are "forever" chemicals that disrupt the immune system and are carcinogenic.
2. Investigate Community Solar or other programs that allow households to use renewable energy without installing solar panels on their homes. Learn more about Clean Choice energy which allows a resident to select renewable energy as the source of energy for their home. Present results at a community meeting.
3. Advocate for safe and responsible waste management practices. Partnering with the Recycle Coordinator to get more information out on what is recyclable. Also encourage use of eco-friendly products

**Michael Ticktin reads the Land and People Acknowledgement**

The land and waterways upon which the residents of the Borough of Roosevelt gather and live are the ancestral Lenapehoking territory of the Lenni-Lenape nation. We honor the contributions

of their ancestors, those now in the diaspora, and the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and Powhatan Renape who continue to live in the areas we call New Jersey. We honor this ancestral land of the Lenni-Lenape Nation. May we live in harmony, caring for this sacred land.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion was made by Michael Ticktin to approve the agenda and second was made by Sam Ashburner. This passed by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA:**

Chairperson Silverman opened the meeting to the public for comments on the agenda at 7:08pm.

No public comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda at 7:08pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 21, 2024** – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, minutes with a second from Sam Ashburner. The Minutes passed by unanimous vote.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. **Sustainable NJ** – Registration now open for 2024 NJ Sustainability Summit and additional program registrations.
2. **ANJEC** – Local Environment Matters
3. **ANJEC** – 2024 Fundamentals for Environmental Commissions
4. **Watershed Institute** – 7<sup>th</sup>. Annual NJ Watershed Conference Recap
5. **Sustainable Jersey** – 2024 New Jersey Sustainability Summit

**REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: No report**

**REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: No report**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- **Administrative:** Michael Ticktin reports that nothing really happened at the Borough Council meeting. Ellen Silverman reports that the Mayor met with the State Police and discussed the no trespassing sign in the schoolyard and the State Police assured the Mayor that no one would get arrested or ticketed.
- **Forest Management** Hilary Wilder reports on the performance platform by the brook- there are 3 – 8X6X6 beams which can be used to build an 8X8 platform. The second section from Rochdale to Tamara – puncheons are staked down by 4X4 wooden stakes, Michael Merritt finished the job today. Ellen Silverman states we are still waiting on an estimate to complete the project from Mike Merritt for the platform. Sam Ashburner reports he took a hike on the whole length yesterday and thinks it looks really good, there is a lot less liter.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Steve Taylor states there is nothing to report; he did fix the map by the cemetery
- **Stream Monitoring:** Ellen Silverman states she is monitoring the road salt, generally you are supposed to do after freezing weather where there was snow or ice, so you can

test how much salt went in; so basically I've done 3 times so far this winter. Maybe this weekend she will go out and do another one.

- **Sustainable Jersey:** Hilary Wilder reports that the Sustainable Jersey Summit will be held May 4, 2024 at Bell Works in Holmdel and encourages people to go. We have received confirmation from Samantha that they have a look back period, 2024 is a hiatus year. Ellen Silverman states that the creative team/inventory will be done in 2025. Most action expire application year however certification period is for 3 years. The water Story is good for 5-years; some points are eternal. We don't know what the look back period is.
- **Dessert and Discussion:** Ellen Silverman presented the seed library and we showed a video of Dave Teich demonstrating how to make charcoal. There was also an impromptu discussion of preserving food using a freeze drier.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman reports that we have a lot of interesting things that need to be done for the Community Outreach, we would like to do a one-page newsletter that comes out periodically; example - trees, a 300-word article and it would tell you if you want to ID trees you go to the Jersey Forestry You Tube Site, if you want to learn more about canopy you go to I Tree... we will send out as a newsletter and put QR Codes. We need writers to write articles.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ellen Silverman reports that she does know that we are going to get free trees, as part of Super Storm Sandy damage, we have ordered 400 trees, cannot tell us which trees we will be getting, there are 46 types of trees.

We need another Arbor Day Proclamation, Steve Taylor already has a tree for the Mayor to plant, we just need to pick a spot. There is some empty space in the lawn at the school, maybe we can get their permission to plant there, Ellen Silverman will ask.

Rutgers did come out and survey for the rain garden, the email said they were coming on the 19<sup>th</sup>., however they came on the 10<sup>th</sup>., we should be getting plans soon. Sometime this month we should hear from the society whether we will get the habitat kit for the rain garden, if we do we will have 800 native plugs to put in our rain garden. If we don't we can apply to ANJEC for a grant for 1500 trees and Native Plant Society has a small grant also.

Trail Day is the first Saturday in June and Ellen Silverman was at Ocean County Master Gardener meeting and a woman was showing a project she made, it was a story walk – she made 17 little plaques and told the story. Ellen Silverman thought it very interesting for the kids and it could go on the part of the trail between the school and Tamara.

Ben Johnson asks if there is any plan to repair the triangle from School to Pine? It is flooded out again, the mulch didn't work. There is some kind of trench that's causing the channeling problem. Ellen Silverman states that she tried to get Carmella Roberts out there to make a plan.

Ellen Silverman discusses the Hazardous Tree problem that Tim Hartley brought up – Ellen Silverman made copies of Roosevelt's Tree Ordinance which basically is about not removing trees but not mention of maintenance of trees. Also Ellen Silverman distributes copies of the Community Forest Management Plan, that pertain to tree maintenance and there is a section that states what the Borough has to do and what the Private Landowners have to do: 4a. Private landowners are responsible for tree maintenance on their property. 5a. Tree removal - It is the

Borough's policy to remove or prune municipal hazard trees within the Borough right of way. Also at the bottom it states on page 7 of the 2017 reexamination-report. "Incorporate the Environmental Resource Inventory completed in 2015 and the Forest Management Plan developed by the Environmental Commission into the Master Plan. Ellen Silverman states the Borough Council has never gotten to the point of who is responsible for the maintenance of the hazardous trees, the commission have a lengthy discussion on hazardous trees.

Ellen Silverman asks Ben Johnson if he will be taking over the CFMP from Sam Ashburner for the 2024 reporting? Sam Ashburner will bring Ben Johnson up to speed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:02pm.

No Public Comment.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:02pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Sam Ashburner offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:02pm.

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Maria Dellasala, Secretary