

REGULAR MEETING

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:05 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, April 17, 2024 at 7:06 P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

Present: Michael Hamilton, Tim Hartley, Ben Johnson, Dave Teich, Michael Ticktin, Ellen Silverman

Absent: Sam Ashburner

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

Tim Hartley 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 Dave Teich. 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: March 20, 2024 – Michael Ticktin made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, minutes with a second from Ben Johnson. The Minutes passed with abstention's from Tim Hartley and Michael Hamilton.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **ANJEC** – Shining Light on Community Solar – A municipal perspective, Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00pm Via Zoom Webinar
2. **ANJEC** – Annual Environmental Commission Training – In person Saturday, April 13 from 9:00am-11:30am at Somerville Civic Center
3. **ANJEC** – Local Environment Matters
4. **ANJEC** – ANJEC programs April 2024
5. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF news and updates 4/1/24
6. **ANJEC** – In-Person Session – Environmental Commission Success Strategies – April 13, 2024 from 9am-11:30am at Somerville Civic Center
7. **The Watershed Institute** – April 2024 Watershed Professionals Newsletter – Upcoming Webinars & Training
8. **ANJEC** – Environmental Poster Exhibit – Thursday, April 25, 2024 Via Zoom
9. **Sustainable Jersey** – 2024 Sustainability Summit
10. **ANJEC** – College Students: apply for 2024 Lechner Scholarship
11. **ANJEC** – ANJEC News April 11, 2024

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Tim Hartley reports there was no Planning Board meeting, we will have one next month.

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Michael Hamilton reports the Borough Council met on Monday and we passed several ordinances on first reading, bond ordinance for North Valley, approval of stormwater regulations and tree protection ordinance. We also approved resolutions, Kyles for maintenance of public lands, also we executed the Open Space grant from Monmouth County for the Amphitheater and awarded a contract for Tamara Road project. Ellen Silverman asks how is the stormwater mapping going? Michael Hamilton replies they are working on it and no update as of yet. Ellen Silverman states utilities of the pipes are going to need to be addressed. Michael Hamilton states they are working on it but no report yet. Michael Hamilton reports that he has spoken with the newest council member, Kristina Kaufman; she is the head of the environmental health & safety and recommended to her to have a meeting regarding the

hazardous tree issue. We need to have address the issue and put dollars in the budget for this issue. Tim Hartley asks if there is a time frame on the budget? Michael Hamilton states we are working on it, right now we are working off emergency appropriations and states he would like to have a hazardous tree line item in the budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Administrative:** Michael Ticktin reports with the tree ordinance changes it to have it conform with the DEP rules. Some things had to be taken out because it did not conform with the DEP as well as things that were added. Ellen Silverman states that she and Ben Johnson listened to some of the webinars on tree ordinances and how to administer, they are well worth looking at. Strong suggestions that when they come in with what is being removed, they also bring their re-planting plan (as part of their permit process) and before a CO is issued it gets inspected. Ellen Silverman states it needs to be clarified about hazardous and dead trees and when residents are taking down trees for other reasons. This is just adding to the current tree ordinance.
- **Forest Management:** Ellen Silverman states as part of the budget for the trails we would like to include the platform between Tamara and the School, Michael Merritt drew up plans along with supply list and cost (\$200) for 8X8X8 deck. Michael Hamilton asks if there is any major trail work that Ellen Silverman would like put in the budget? Ellen Silverman responds we did get donation of wood. We would need the framing wood we have decking wood only. Michael Hamilton asks if we are planning on addressing some of the flooding issues along the trails? Ellen Silverman responds there is flooding at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and also between 571 and the bike trail; that is why we need the stormwater management plan; we need to know how the water flows. It will have a lot to do with how we plan that trail. Tim Hartley asks if we should be coming up with an outline of a plan from the recommendations of the forestry experts? Ellen Silverman responds we do have a forest management plan. Tim Hartley responds in a more finite plan, like for the upcoming year? Ellen Silverman responds we have not always followed the plan but we do have a finite plan. Tim Hartley asks about budget for said plans? Is the budget fully on the community? Have we look into the possibility of grants? Ellen Silverman replies we can apply for a grant for re-planting for various species. Our focus has been on invasive plant removal and maintaining the trails. Discussion continues regarding thinning of trees as recommended by the forester, street trees and trail use.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Steve Taylor reports that the Arbor Day Tree planting will take place at the Pocket Park. The branches that have accumulated over the years were preventing the mower guys from mowing the whole park; they have all been removed, the park has been mowed, looks good now. Ellen Silverman asks Michael Hamilton what he thinks the chances are that the Bradford Pear, which is an invasive species, about 9-10 inches in diameter, to get it cut down, Michael Hamilton will ask.
- **Stream Monitoring:** Ellen Silverman states that Mary Tulloss is not here this evening to report. Ellen Silverman reports she still has 2 strips to do on street salt in the streams. We haven't had any weather that any chance of salt being put down on the roads, so she hasn't done it but may after this rain because the end of April is the end of that testing.

We are holding steady on the three we did. Tim Hartley reports the water level last month - no sign of change; this are pretty stable.

- **Sustainable Jersey:** Hilary Wilders states there is nothing to report, this is a sit tight year and start planning for next year.
- **Dessert and Discussion:** Dave Teich reports on March 26 we presented Roosevelt Seed Library and making your own Charcoal, this month on April 23 we will present planting, selection of trees, maintenance and preparing area to plant Bare Root Trees at Borough Hall from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Ellen Silverman will be picking up the trees on Thursday and will be giving out to the residents on Saturday, April 20 at 9:30am.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman states she sent out to everyone a list of things we would like to have articles on, for the bulletin, articles for our online newsletter, (they will be informational articles) that we can make into a flyer, something that can be handed out at our informational table on July 4th. Ben Johnson has already written 2 already. Dave Teich is working on one, please let me know by the end of the month the topic.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Rain Garden that we will be installing at the school, the plans are being made by Rutgers, (they are giving them to us for free), they are usually between \$1500-\$2000.

We did not get the habitat kit from Xerces Society, we will have to come up with other planning material, should be getting plan by the end of the week and was planning to find out how much the installation would be and discuss planning material and write up as the grant proposal for the ANJEC Grant for \$1500.

Hazardous Trees – Environmental Commission members have an extensive discussion regarding the draft letter they will be sending to the borough council regarding the hazardous trees in the tree reports. Michael Hamilton asks if the trees that are near the school property are those trees on borough owned land or school or the borough, if so should this letter also be sent to the school? Michael Hamilton did forward them a copy of the tree study. Ellen Silverman states this letter is about us approaching the borough council, they have the hazardous tree report and it is their responsibility to say to the county, these are the hazardous trees on the county road, please take care of this. School these are the hazardous trees on the school property, please take care of this. Doesn't make sense for the environmental commission, who is an advisory commission to send the letter to the school. Michael Hamilton states as the liaison he did send the study to school and had a conversation with them about the trees that are leaning over the playground equipment. The property we are leasing is the borough's responsibility. School graduation is June 5th. The members agree on some modifications.

Motion is made by Tim Hartley to send the letter to the Mayor and Council, with a second by Michael Ticktin. This passed by unanimous vote. Secretary, Maria Dellasala, will email the letter to the Mayor and Council. Michael Hamilton will set up a meeting with Tim Hartley and new council member, Tina Hoffman along with Ellen Silverman and Ben Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS: Ellen Silverman reports:

4th of July Picnic information table: (Stormwater information will be a part of it) – we need someone to spear head the table. We will have material regarding stormwater management available.

Tim Hartley leaves at 8:12pm.

Update on the School Rain Garden project – we should be getting the plans by the end of the week. Applying for ANJEC grant for \$1500.

Tree Give away details – Ellen Silverman picking up the trees tomorrow (4/18/24) hopefully we will be getting about 400 trees and 6-7 varieties, she will email what she receives.

5th grade award discussion – the Environmental Commission give an award to a 5th grade graduate that is most environmentally aware (\$50) and a certificate. Motion is made by Ellen Silverman to continue with the 5th. grade graduate award, with a second by Michael Ticktin. This passed by unanimous vote.

Trail project, 8' x 8' deck proposal with budget request – already talked about Motion is made by Michael Ticktin to move forward with purchasing materials, approximately \$200 for the deck, with a second by Dave Teich. This passed by unanimous vote.

Community Service project report: Dave Teich speaks about the community service project (Jonathan Kwong-Abazia, from his church), Dave's suggestion was a Trail Side Chalkboard – we built one, on the trail near the school, shingles will go up soon. It's basically a trail side structure in the style of our kiosk for the trail signs, plain wood, will be painted with chalkboard paint. We will do a box for the chalk, will need help getting the roof up.

Arbor Day – tree planting and proclamation – Ellen Silverman will send email to M/Malkin and Steve Taylor about a date for the tree planting, Steve Taylor states we need a photographer. Dave Teich states he can be the photographer, depending on the date.

Newsletter articles request for writers – Ellen Silverman asks everyone to get her your articles, ideas 200-300 words.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Ellen Silverman shows everyone the new green team car, no emissions.

Ben Johnson – maybe we should do Environmental tips – every month different tip – Borough Bulletin gets most exposure.

Ellen Silverman states that there have been 4 groups of out-of-towners walking our trails.

Ellen Silverman speaks about trash in the open space behind people's houses, what if we got a group together a week before bulk pick up – and let the residents know that we can help them get it to the street.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:31pm.
No Public Comment.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:31pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn Dave Teich offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:32pm.

Maria Dellasala, Secretary