

REGULAR MEETING

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 7:03 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 Vice Chairperson Michael Hamilton on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:03P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: 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.

Sam Ashburner reads:

Environmental Commission Mission Statement:

1. To minimize and monitor PFA's in the water and seek to discourage their use, (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 Hamilton reads:

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 7:07pm.

No public comment.

Chairperson Silverman closes the public portion for the agenda at 7:07pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by **Michael Ticktin** to approve the July 17, 2024, minutes with a second from **Sam Ashburner**. The minutes passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **NJ DEP** – Funding for Urban Forestry Projects, Application deadline August 12, 2024
2. **ANJEC** – Accepting Nominations: 2024 Environmental Achievement Award & Municipal Leadership Award,
3. **Mary Tulloss** – Email regarding phosphate score
4. **ANJEC** – Environmental New Digest – July 19, 2024
5. **ANJEC** – 2024 Environmental Congress, Friday, September 27, 2024 from 9am-4pm – Rowan University
6. **STATE of NJ** – NJ Updates, Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and More
7. **USDA Forest Service** – Funding Opportunity for Community Forestry Corps Youth Employment & Fellowship Programs
8. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest – August 1, 2024
9. **NJ DEP** - NJUCF News and Updates 8/1/24
10. **ANJEC** – Webinar: The Problem of Plastics – Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 6PM
11. **ANJEC** – ANJEC’S 2024 Citizen Scientist Series, Adopt-a-Drain: Safeguarding your Community Through Stormwater Management, Tuesday, September 10, 7:00PM Via Zoom Webinar
12. **The Watershed Institute** – August 2024 Watershed Professionals Announcements
13. **State of NJ** – NJ Updates, Events, Deadlines, Programs, Guidance and More
14. **USDA Forest Services** – Landscape Scale Restoration Grants
15. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest August 14, 2024

16. **The Watershed Institute** – September 2024 Watershed Professionals Announcements
17. **NJ DEP** – NJUCF News and Updates 9/1/24
18. **ANJEC** – 2024 Citizen Scientist Series – Adopt a Drain
19. Letter from resident Ellen Silverman to Borough Council requesting clarification of Street Trees
20. **ANJEC** – ANJEC News Digest September 4, 2024

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Michael Hamilton reports at the Borough Council meeting of September 16, 2024 several actions were taken:

- Discussion to modify Stormwater Control Ordinance – make more restrictive
- Combine Road Projects – which will help to save dollars
- Hazardous Tree Removal on the right-a-way – informal policy conflicts with Master Plan. Ellen Silverman states if we are approached by a developer we must make sure it fits into the Master Plan, the informal policy must be formalized. C/Hamilton states that formal action needs to be taken by the Borough Council.
- Risk Analysis – possibly send out Code Enforcer – Michael Ticktin states we can't send out the Code Enforcer if there is no policy. C/Hamilton states the 14 Hazardous Trees (from Hazardous Tree Inventory) were discussed.
- Fence removed from Green Acres on Beth's farm.
- There was also an executive session – which he cannot speak about.
- Resolutions and Ordinances that are discussed at Council meetings – formal action to be taken. Discussion takes place regarding formal action that needs to be taken on the Hazardous Tree Inventory.
- Need to fill vacancies on the Environmental Commission.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Administrative:** No report.
- **Forest Management:** Ellen Silverman reports the Art Walk is coming October 5, 2024. Sam Ashburner has put in a request to Ana Debevec to have the Borough contract clear the trails, weed whacking of School Trail Head to Tamara and other trails also. Ellen Silverman reports we have some wood out there to do some puncheon work, we are going to have some green team work on the trail from School to Tamara, this Friday at 9:30am. We had a donation of Barn Wood, Corki Rothfuss will take the Barn Wood and make Bird Houses. Ben Johnson had a great idea of a health initiative – exercise is good. Discussion takes on what kinds of activities could be included; maybe a planned activity such as – exercise walks, nature walks and education walks...maybe start with a walk one time per month and see how it goes, then we can add more activities.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Ellen Silverman reports the bed around the Holly and the utility building by the Amphitheater needs to be cleared out and mulched. In relationship to the Rain Garden planned at the school the Watershed Institute is working with the kindergarten and the third grade on education about the Streams and the water in the Watersheds and doing a project called Leaf Pack – the Leaf Packs were put out in the

stream by the third graders yesterday, they look like plastic bags. The Leaf Packs will be in the stream till the first or second week of October. They will be looking to see what kind of aquatic insects and micro beings are in there. Sam Ashburner states he will include in his email to Ana Debevec in case the contractor sees the Leaf Packs.

- **Stream Monitoring:** Ellen Silverman reports the standard chemical testing still being done by Mary Tullos and Corki Rothfuss. Discussion takes place regarding our high phosphate scores.
- **Sustainable Jersey:** Ellen Silverman reports will start again in 2025.
- **Dessert and Discussion:** Ellen Silverman reports that Dessert and Discussion is now unfinished projects, things you are working on and would like to work on with others come on the 4th. Tuesday of the month here at Borough Hall at 7pm and bring a dessert. We are looking for artists for the Art Walk.
C/Hamilton reports that Bulk Trash is October 5, 2024 and the Budget hearing and adoption is September 2, at 7pm.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman states we still need stuff.
We had a donation of nature books from a resident – and we were discussing the free library boxes maybe we can have one at the trail head at the school and have some of these nature boxes and have free libraries at the 2 triangles. Maybe we can start making a list of possible Scout Projects, Community Service Projects – that would be on the list and think of any other projects that we would be interested in as the Environmental Commission, Michael Merritt has offered to get that information out to the Scouts in both Hightstown and Millstone.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rain Garden – Ellen Silverman reports we have the educational component with the Watershed Institute; once we can figure out where the utilities are we will work around them, Mike Lyons said just call for a utility mark out. It will either be a Rain Garden or a Pollinator Garden.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ellen Silverman reports that she has join the Watershed Institute along with the other 11 communities affected by the Assunpink – talking about the Watershed Improvement Plan, which is part of the MS 4 and other requirements past the first year. We still need the map; C/Hamilton states the engineers are still working on the map. The Watershed Institute will come out and we will do a joint meeting with Millstone – and they can tell us all the information, council members and consultant doing the MS4 should come to that meeting.

Vote on joint meeting:

Michael Ticktin makes a motion authorizing a joint meeting on October 16, 2024 with Millstone with a second from Sam Ashburner. Motion passes unanimously.

Ellen Silverman states she will send an email to the Municipal Clerk requesting to have Roberts Engineering a to come to the October 16, 2024 Environmental Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 8:05pm

No Public Comment

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 8:05pm

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Hamilton motioned to adjourn, **Michael Ticktin** offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:05pm

Maria Dellasala, Secretary