

REGULAR MEETING
ROOSEVELT BOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 16, 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 Vice Chairperson Michael Hamilton on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:05P.M.

The Roll was called by Secretary, Maria Dellasala

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

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 minimize and monitor PFA's in the water and seek to discourage there 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

Dave Teich 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 **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 7:07pm.

No public comment.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Sustainable Jersey** – Save the date annual luncheon – November 19, 2024 from 10:30am-1:45pm
2. **ANJEC** – **2024** Stormwater Series
3. **NJUCF** - News & Updates 10/1/2024
4. **ANJEC** – Environmental News Digest, October 2, 2024
5. **The Watershed Institute** – Assunpink Watershed Working Group meeting – December 2, 2024 from 5:00pm – 6:30PM Via Zoom
6. **NJ Watershed Ambassador** – **NJ Watershed Ambassador Introduction**
7. **Roberts Engineering Group, LLC** – TWA Application – Re: Dichlorination with Sodium Bisulfite – Ellen Silverman reached out to Watershed Institute leaders to help us research & respond to the request made by Roberts Engineering.

REPORT OF PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: None

REPORT OF COUNCIL LIAISON: Michael Hamilton reports at the Borough Council meet this past Monday night, but it was executive session, which he cannot discuss. Ellen Silverman asks about the previous meeting specifically about the taxes and how both the 3rd. quarter (August) and 4th quarter (November) are both due at the same time. Michael Hamilton states since the budget was just adopted the 3rd. quarter taxes were deferred until November 12, which is the same date that the 4th. quarter taxes are due. Discussion takes place regarding taxes being paid by mortgage companies in August or waiting for their tax bills and how some residents were confused. The budget passed and we have a new rate and taxes are going up significantly, school taxes went down. Water/Sewer rates have not changed in 13 years. The town has hired a new CFO.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- **Administrative:** No report.
- **Forest Management:** Sam Ashburner reports he is hanging bird houses by chalk board. Six (6) additional bird houses will cost approximately \$205 – 4 blue bird and 2 screech owl. Ellen Silverman states that Michael Merritt requests additional puncheons in the amount of \$713.06, which will include 2 thin plank puncheons, 3 thick plank puncheons and spare thin floor planks.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Steve Taylor reports he looked to see what we can label on the Tamara to the Rochdale section, because the other places where we have labeled are spread out and people forget to look for them. These would all go around the stage platform, about 16 between trees, and plants; some can be screwed into the trees but some will need stakes. Some are invasive and we can put explanatory statements on them, we can use a red label and maybe a circle with a line through it. Ellen Silverman asks if we want to pin point some that are further out. We can also identify native vs. invasive with a general description. Ellen Silverman speaks about possibility of a library box by the school trail. Library box kit cost about \$300.00. Maybe we can do a contest with teenagers to come up with a design for the library box – as a community project. We may want to do 2 more for each triangle, we have the money in the budget. We will get 1 kit and check out the quality. Steve Taylor states we've talked about removing the invasive species around the Roosevelt head – we need to pick a date and get some volunteers. Ellen Silverman reports that brush clean-up is November 11, let's try and pick a date prior to that.
- **Stream Monitoring:** Ellen Silverman reports that the third graders and kindergarteners did their lesson on stream monitoring. Mary Tullos and the Rothfuss' are continuing their stream monitoring.
- **Sustainable Jersey:** Ellen Silverman reports will start again in January 2025.
- **Dessert and Discussion:** Ellen Silverman reports we are working on your own projects, a couple of people came last month and next week we have another one. Ellen Silverman is continuing to clean seeds.
- **Community Outreach/Communication Calendar:** Ellen Silverman reports we are still working on the calendar. We need to review our goals and make sure we are covering everything we want. We continue to communicate through the Borough Bulletin. In the next 2 months we will be closing out the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ellen Silverman reports on the rain garden at the school – the school did call and the measured out we all the underground lines are; flags were put up. Steve Taylor went out and provided them with a map with dimensions, which were sent to the Watershed and the School and is now in the hands of the Watershed. Still on schedule for construction of the rain garden in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Michael Hamilton makes a motion for the bird houses (\$205), library kits (\$300), puncheons in including the plants (\$713.06) totaling \$1,218.06 with a second from Michael Ticktin. This passed by unanimous vote.

- Joint meeting of the Roosevelt and Millstone Environmental Commissions at the Roosevelt EC meeting of November 20, 2024 at 7:00pm
Susan Bristol, from the Watershed Institute to discuss the regional approach to MS4 activities needed for stage 2 and 3 of permitting. A Proposal for expenditure for Environmental Commission Budget to the Borough Council to have a representative from Roberts Engineering present at the meeting. Borough Council will vote on it at their October 21, 2024 meeting.
- Letter from Roberts Engineer, LLC Re; TWA Application; Dichlorination with Sodium Bisulfite – Michael Hamilton believes that we are just changing the process by using Sodium Bisulfite. Sam Ashburner said he looked into it and it seems commonly used. Michael Ticktin agrees.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairperson Ellen Silverman opens the public comment at: 7:40pm

1. Steve Taylor, 5 Oscar Drive – states he noticed that at the kiosk by the trail head the brochures slots are empty. Ellen Silverman responds that when it rains they leak; they need to be replaced with ones that are water proof.

Chairperson Ellen Silverman closes the public comment at: 7:43pm

Michael Hamilton states he just heard from Mike Lyons (regarding the new process on chlorination) and states it is the right thing to do, currently sodium aluminate and going to sodium bisulfite.

ADJOURNMENT: Michael Ticktin motioned to adjourn, Dave Teich offered a second. It was unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:45pm

Maria Dellasala, Secretary