

Oakland Environmental Commission

March 3, 2020 meeting

1. **Meeting Called to order** at 7:35 PM by Carol Peterson. Members present were Ali Fleeson, Alex Myers, Lee Haymon, Erich Kamm, and Nancy Krause. Absent members were Dylan Warner and Jeffrey Smyrychynski. New alternate member, Larry Levine was not present. It was moved and passed that Dylan Warner's absence be excused.
2. **Meeting announcement:** This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meeting law, duly announced, advertised and posted in the municipal building.
3. **Reorganization election:** Ali Fleeson was elected chair person. Alex Myers was elected Vice Chairperson. A secretary was not elected as the current secretary is retiring.
4. **Open to the Public** – No public attended the meeting.
5. **Meeting minutes review** – November + December minutes were table to the next meeting.
6. **Committee updates**
 - a. Town Council – Borough Administrator Richard Kunz spoke about plans for Roosevelt Park, an area of flood plain that was acquired with open-space Blue Acres funds and has now become open-space through the demolition of the houses on 12 of the 13 lots obtained. Lot 12 is designated as recipient of trees from the Roots for Rivers grant, received through a Green-Team application. The rest of the properties could be eligible for open-space grants that would create passive recreation areas where paths, gravel or cinder-track parking areas, refuse receptacles and benches can be installed. A grant application is due by May 15th. Conceptual landscaping plans are needed. The Shade Tree Commission can also help provide plans. Topological data mines are available on-line. It was suggested that phase I start with trails. Carol Peterson offered to contact planners at Rutgers to get help with design planning. Environmentally sensitive areas need to be designated before paths are made. Boulders and fences are not allowed. Boys Scouts could provide help with paths. The Borough still has a river preservation project being worked on. Fishing access is planned.
 - b. Green Team - Root-for-Rivers grant includes trees for 3 properties. There are 250 trees for Great Oak Park, 250 trees for 74 Truman Blvd.(proposed Roosevelt Park), and 715 trees for the river property belonging to the Elks Lodge on Ramapo Valley Rd. The program can also be used to obtain more trees in the future.
 - c. Great Oak Park – The skate park is being discussed. Its future is uncertain. Dirt may be used to fill in the area until a properly engineered skate park can be created. Paving for parking is being planned by the Borough for events on the Great Lawn. Bat/bird boxes need to be put on posts.
 - d. Team-up to Clean-up – Nancy Krause has begun the process to hold the annual Park clean-up event on Saturday, April 18th. She has found a meeting place to start off the gathering and invited students and Borough groups to participate in picking up refuse in several parks.
 - e. Battery recycling – drop-off boxes will be available in Borough Hall and at the DPW. A box for rechargeable batteries currently exists in the Borough Hall entrance foyer.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Bi-County project update – Affordable Housing determination is still pending.
- b. Bird/bat boxes – They need to be installed on posts in the parks.
- c. Carnival – It was decided that the Environmental Commission would not request a booth at the Town Carnival this year.

8. New Business

- a. Plans for the Dog Park in the Great Oak Park were available for comment by the Environmental Commission. A maintenance plan needs to be assured. The DPW will provide water for trees being planted there. Distance from the river is needed to assurance animal e-coli run-off will not go directly into the river before being absorbed by a meadow.

9. Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Updates –

- a. Current Projects – Fanale Track on McCoy Road is being planned for fair-market housing. The State Court has approved 200 houses with 40 affordable units despite steep slopes areas. Up-to 40 foot buildings are being allowed. Sewer and water services would come from Franklin Lakes. A letter of intent will be presented on April 3rd. It was suggested that lower income housing that already exists in town should be used to fulfill the Borough's COAH housing requirements.

10. Budget status – the 2020 budget is under negotiations.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.