

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013

MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION JANUARY 24, 2013

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was sent to The Record and the Newark Star Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2012. Members present were: James Ruff, Kevin Avery, Peter Garvey, Harry Menta, Linda and Steve Quinn. Also present were: Cynde & Gene Hammond, Joe D'Angeli of NJ Batman and Mark Olson.

The minutes of the November 15, 2012, meeting was approved.

Old Business: Steve Quinn finished the illustrations for a few more of the interpretive signs. He has at least six done. Kevin Avery and Harry Menta will assist in the text for the signs. Commissioner Anlian told the EC to go ahead with the project and commit with the company to make the signs. Jim Ruff will act as Project Manager for the signs. Kevin Avery has the text for one of the proposed signs, which he will give to Steve to work on the signs.

Harry Menta contacted the Teaneck Conservancy. They gave him the name of the artist they used but the EC already has the artist.

NYRA – The land appears to be for sale now and no recent action has been seen from the NYRA. Kevin Avery and Steve Quinn met with a group of concerned parties regarding the eagles. The meeting was with the Skymark Developers before the breeding season begins. Gil Hawkins noticed an encroachment on the nest. Kevin Avery called up the consultant to see what was going on. She said they were not encroaching. Skymark has plans for the nest and wanted to discuss it.

What was originally planned was there was a soil problem. Alternately, they were going to set up on the north end a large platform for the eagles to nest on. They were going to apply for a permit at the end of the breeding season. This would take place in the fall. The EC questions if the removal of the trees is absolutely necessary. The developer appeared to be open about arguing with the DEP and getting a disturb permit. They needed to leave some buffer zone. The eagles might tolerate action closer to their nest but most likely would not tolerate moving the nest. The developer experienced a willingness to discuss the alternative brought by the concerned organizations about decreasing the buffer zone. They can go ahead and build their platforms and maybe the new birds will nest there. It is a NJ state mandate. Eagles are not federally protected any longer.

They are planning a road close to the nesting tree. Gil Hawkins will keep the EC up-to-date on the eagle situation. These nests are very important because it is right in the middle of the metropolitan area.

Resolution No. 2012-2 concerning low speed vehicles was signed by all members. It will be forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners as well as Gerard Garofalow. Mark Olson was present to find out the status of the resolution for Gerard Garofalow who is in Florida.

Jim Ruff will follow up with Commissioners MacNeill and Anlian to see what is happening with the dock. Steve Quinn said it would be great to have a fishing derby there once the dock is installed.

New Business: Gene Hammond was present to advise that he is interested in becoming an alternate for the Environmental Commission. The EC will advise the Clerk to appoint him as an alternate.

Joe D'Angeli attended the meeting to offer his services to the Environmental Commission. He is also looking for a new location as his wildlife shop has outgrown its current location and is looking for suggestions. He would like to stay in RP if possible but is having difficulty in locating an appropriate building. He has been at the present location for six years. They have a large community of followers

from all over. He does a lot of lectures with different counties. They do many talks at nature centers. He would like to work with the EC and get involved in future Earth Day celebrations.

He has plans for making bat houses. There is starting to see an increase in the number of bats in the area. He is willing to do a bat walk with the EC. May or June would be a good time for a bat walk. He will check his schedules and get back to the EC for a specific date. The high school would be a good place to hold a walk. They would like to hold a slide program in the school.

Barred owls have been seen in RP. Unfortunately, one of the owls died as a result of a method of eliminating rats. The owl likely had ingested a poisoned rat. The EC would like to see the use of these toxins needing approval by the EC before they are used. There was great cooperation where the pesticide had been used and this method was immediately ceased after talk with the EC. It would be a good idea for the EC to sponsor a table on responsibly controlling pests at the next Earth Day.

Steve Quinn said he would draft a letter and a newsletter article about pest control (next deadline is February 10). There was already an article in the Patriot about the barred owl.

Future Activities: Earth Day 2013 will be scheduled for April 13, 2013. High tide is 11:48 a.m. that day. The following will be contacted about participating in Earth Day:

NJ Batman	Teaneck Creek Conservancy
Frank Vincenti of Wild Dog Foundation	Overpeck Preserve
Tenaflly Nature Center	Flat Rock Brook Nature Preserve
Snakes n Scales	Puffin Group
Wallaby Tales (Eyes Wild)	Risky Business Band
Lenape Indians	Hudson River Fisherman
Facepainter	Wanda Canoe Club
Boy Scout Troop 3	Library
Supt. Christopher Onorato	DPW
Police Dept.	Ambulance Corp.
Rescue Squad	BCUA
Bergen County Audubon Society	Board of Health
Cub Scouts	Bruce Herrick
Cosmic Wheel	Fire Dept.
Gil Hawkins	Girl Scouts
NJ Meadowlands	OEM
Pete Plucino, Mosquito Control	Shade Tree Commission
Bill Sheehan	Environmental Club

Steve Quinn said that there are about 35 trees that were over. He contacted Nick Gerken as this was his Eagle Scout project. The scouts went down and straightened them out. The remaining mulch needs to be put in. The EC will meet at noon on Sunday. Steve Quinn will contact Nick to see if he can round up some scouts to help.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013.

The meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

