

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
JULY 24, 2014**

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:40 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 10th day of January, 2014. Members present were: James Ruff, Peter Garvey and Stephen Quinn. Peggy Conversano and Don Smith were also in attendance.

The minutes of the May 22 and July 7, 2014, meetings were approved.

**Correspondence received:** 1) Copy of Application for Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit No. 12, Coastal General Permit No. 27, a Water Quality Certificate and a HMC Water Quality Certificate from PSE&G 2) Application for a Waterfront Development Individual Permit (in-water), Waterfront Development Individual Permit (upland), Water Quality Certificate, Hackensack Meadowlands District Water Quality Certificate, and Flood Hazard Area Verification/Individual Permit/Hardship Exception from PSE&G

**Old Business:** All members – please make note that the meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

**Eagles** – Don Smith attended the meeting to view the updated drawings made by Steve Quinn. A discussion was held on the suggestions made by Don Smith and the revised drawings. Steve Quinn will clean up the drawings and contact Skymark to arrange a meeting. Steve said he took another 25' for the buffer to have a perimeter of 150'.

**Interpretive Signs** – Steve Quinn has done some additional work on the drawings. He has one project to finish up and then he can get back to work on the drawings.

**Eagle Scout Project** – Steve Quinn said a good future eagle project would be to make a cross country ski trail. Teaneck Creek has great trails.

Karen and Bruce Riede, in the past, have invited the EC to visit the Ridgefield Nature Center. Steve Quinn said he would contact Karen and Bruce to try to set up a trip for the EC and also invite the scouts to visit the site to possibly get info on potential eagle scout projects.

**Nature Preserve** - Steve Quinn thinks the EC needs to keep the nature preserve in the public's attention. The EC should find ways to have it function and utilized more in the community. Maybe a Nature Preserve Group that goes biking or hiking at the nature preserve, anything that will keep it in the public's mind. The DPW did clear the path.

**Earth Day 2014** – Earth Day 2014 was held on May 17, 2014. The day started with Steve Quinn leading the bird watch prior to Earth Day from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. The bird watch went great and the highlight was probably seeing the mother fox caring for its two pups on the shoreline of the Overpeck Creek at McGowan Park.

Everything seemed to go great. The weather was perfect. People enjoyed the boat rides. This year the Hudson River's Fisherman's Association brought fishing poles and had the children fishing. The children really enjoyed it and were very excited when they caught a fish. The animal shows went well. Next year it was suggested that more announcements be made throughout the day to lead people to the various shows going on and the location of the shows. The EC would like to see some of the larger animals like the lizard and snakes return next year. The crowd seems to enjoy the larger, unusual animals. The scouts did a great job with their tables and handling the food. The children enjoyed the scavenger hunt run by the Shade Tree Commission. Thank you letters were sent to the participants.

The girl scouts displayed their bat houses and asked for suggestions on where to place them in the Village. They have made four bat houses that they want to hang. They were thinking of possibly installing two in Ridgefield Park and then possibly ask the Tenafly Nature Center and Teaneck Creek Conservancy if they might like one unless they find suitable RP locations for the bat houses. Steve Quinn said that he (and any other EC members interested) would be willing to go out with the scouts to find the appropriate location for the bat houses.

**Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project** – While Don Smith was present at the meeting, the EC took the opportunity to ask his opinion on what would be good to plant to keep the knotweed away. Don felt that switchgrass would be good to plant in the spring to keep the knotweed away.

**Buoys** – Jim Ruff has been looking into what type of buoy to use in between the current barrels. The EC said that Kathy Clark advised there are two buoys in the yard at Tuckahoe if the EC wants them. The EC will continue looking into what type of buoy would be best to use.

**Grants** – Harry Menta read an ANJEC email about open space grants. He wondered if it was something that could be used for a possible cross country trail. Harry will try to put something together regarding a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile loop cross country trail. Harry was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2014, at **7:30 p.m.** Jim Ruff advised that he will be on vacation that week.

The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca