

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2014**

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:45 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, Gene Hammond, Harry Menta and Steve Quinn. Also present were Cynde Hammond, Ariana Dindial and Commissioner John Anlian.

The minutes of the January 23, 2014, meeting were approved.

Correspondence received: 1) Application for Flood Hazard Verification and Individual Permit from PSE&G (routine) dated January 24, 2014
2) OPRA request from Applied Earth Solutions Inc. Re: 5 Winant Avenue – memo sent to Village Clerk that the EC has no records pertaining to this request
3) e-mails from Tony Noce regarding eagles

Old Business:

Eagles – Steve Quinn received an email from Tony Noce regarding setting up a meeting with Steve next week to review the updated plans and prepare for the upcoming meeting with the DEP and US F&W. Tony Noce requested that only Steve, John Cote and Mike Nevins attend this meeting. Steve Quinn does not think it is a good idea for him to meet alone with the group. He will advise them it is improper for him to attend alone. The EC will send the same representatives as in the past.

As a result of this meeting, they will then meet with the state. Tony would like to set up the meeting for Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Steve Quinn will work on the two letters to Suzanne Dietrich and Tim Bartle, who is the remediation contact.

Right now there is an approval for footings for an artificial tower. They do not have approval on the design of the tower. It is the EC's understanding that Skymark does not seek to utilize the tower permit. Steve will copy Skymark on this letter.

Eagle Talk – The EC thinks it important to keep the residents advised of the status of the eagles nest. Steve Quinn and Kevin Avery will give a talk to residents. Steve will check with Cynde Hammond or DPW about when it could be held.

Steve Quinn did give a talk at the recent cub scouts Blue & Gold Dinner about the eagles. He was able to bring some specimens from the museum. There were about 40 scouts and their families present. The talk went very well. Steve emphasized the developer is not a bad guy and RP wants the development. The kids want to send letters. The leaders will check the letters before they are sent. Steve provided the proper addresses to the leaders. (Mr. Frank Ianuzzi, Jr. of Skymark Development Company; Suite 204, Paramus, NJ 07652-5103; Mr. David Jenkins - Bureau Chief (oversees all decisions made by the state regarding NJs Bald Eagles), Department of Endangered and Non-Game Species Programs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400; Governor Chris Christie, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625.

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.

Bat Watch – Joe Angeli needs to be contacted to see when a date should be set.

Eagle Scout Project – Marco Salazar came in December to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout Project at the nature preserve and said he would return in January with final plans. Marco had informed Steve Quinn that he would be at tonight's meeting but Peggy Conversano said he changed his mind and it going to do a quicker eagle project. Steve Quinn said a good future eagle project would be to make a cross country ski trail. Teaneck Creek has great trails.

Earth Day 2014 – May 17, 2014, was set as Earth Day 2014. High tide is 12:51 p.m. on that day. The EC will start with a bird watch from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Earth Day will run from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vouchers were sent out for signatures. The shows will be kept on the same time schedule as last year. Angel the face painter, Tenafly Nature Center and Risky Business have all advised they will be participating.

Steve Quinn will be doing the bird watch prior to Earth Day from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. It will start at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park and then meet at 8:30 a.m. at the amphitheater in the County Park. It will be advertised on the same flyer as Earth Day.

Steve Quinn said that he has three people with table saws and shop skills to help the girl scouts make the bat houses rather than spend a lot of money on them. Gerard Garofalow, Mark Olson and Steve would be happy to cut the wood and let the kids put them together. They will inspect sites for installing the bat houses for the next meeting. The houses need to be in southern exposure about 10-15 feet high.

Leaf Composting: Commissioner Anlian said it is a very big project and gives off a very offensive odor to homeowners. RP does not have the room or the funds to do this project. It is a good idea but very time consuming. RP sends the leaves to a place where it does get composted. It must be turned constantly.

RP currently only recycles 3 or 4 types of plastics. Other towns recycle 7 numbers. The EC should look into this. There might be a logical reason why RP does it this way.

Canada Goose: Steve Quinn thinks the squawkers used to deter the geese are against the law. The Commissioners are violating their own noise ordinance. You are not allowed to play repetitive loud noises in public parks. If the Commissioners wish to continue playing the geese noise, they need to change the ordinance. It sets a very bad precedence.

The EC feels that as soon as the snow clears would be a good time to put the black cloth over the Japanese knotweed or planting of rosa rugosa. Steve Quinn said he would send Adam MacNeill information on where to get rosa rugosa and where to get the black plastic. If the knotweed is covered, it must be covered a full season.

Jim Ruff thinks the EC could do it themselves if they got the black cloth. It must be covered early in the season before it starts to sprout. This must be maintained throughout the summer and then next year the area would be ready for plants. It would need to be done soon because when the shoots start they are like spikes. The EC could hire a contractor to do it and maintain it. This needs to be done before Earth Day.

The EC will install the black cloth on April 5. Volunteers should meet by the dock at Riverside Park behind the DPW. It should take about three hours to complete the Japanese knotweed eradication project. Volunteers will be asked to help spread the landscaping cloth to cover the Japanese knotweed. A flyer will be sent to the high school to see if any community service students want to assist as well as notifying the scouts to see if any of scouts would like to volunteer to assist.

Jim Ruff will speak to Alan O'Grady about the project. He will also speak to Jodi Jameson.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014, at **7:30 p.m.**

The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca