

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

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 23, 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, Kevin Avery, Peter Garvey, Gene Hammond and Steve Quinn. Also present were Cynde Hammond as well as Erin and Peggy Conversano.

The minutes of the December 19, 2013, meeting were approved.

Correspondence received: Skymark's email response and plan

Old Business:

Eagles – A discussion was held on a series of emails between Tony Noce and Steve Quinn regarding revised plans. Jim Ruff and Steve Quinn advised Tony Noce that they did not feel comfortable in not meeting with the entire Environmental Commission to discuss the emails. The EC can only speak for the RPEC and not any other groups. Any discussion with the parties will be brought back before the EC. There is no need to battle the issue in the media but the entire EC will be kept apprised of all happenings as they occur. The EC has no problem in allowing Skymark to make the announcement of whatever final decision is made. A response was sent to this email on January 13 by Steve Quinn outlining some observations by both Jim Ruff and Steve Quinn and the members of the EC were in agreement with these observations. The EC had no additional comments other than what was included in the January 13 email. Steve Quinn will notify Tony Noce that the same group of representatives from the EC are ready to meet again to discuss this matter.

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. There is a pair of eagles in Connecticut that did not accept an artificial tower. Skymark appears to be trying to keep all their options open.

Steve Quinn advised the members that there is a form that everyone should fill out and send in everytime they see an eagle (which was emailed to all members). If possible, a photograph should be sent in with the form. They are especially interested in information on roosting. Steve also wondered if it would be beneficial if anything were done to shield the eagles from the construction work. Perhaps this might be a strategy worth pursuing.

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.

Interpretive Signs – Steve Quinn has done some additional 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. The EC has not heard anything further from Marco.

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. Invitations went out and responses have started to come in. Fran Orovitz responded that the scouts will participate. Peggy Conversano said the girls scouts would also participate and are hoping to have more tables this year. NJ Batman sent the invoice for the show. The shows will be kept on the same time schedule as last year. Angel the face painter, Tenaflly 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.

Peggy Conversano advised that the younger 5th grade girl scout troop was working on its Bronze Award and asked if it would be ok if they did a 10 minute presentation with the NJ Batman presentation. They also want to work on distributing bat houses. The EC had no problem with this and told them to coordinate with Joe D'Angeli. They also plan on selling cupcakes as a fundraiser for the bat houses.

Peggy also advised that the theme for the Cub Scout Blue & Gold Dinner is "Save Our Eagles". They wanted to ask for permission to use a photograph of an eagle for their cover. Steve Quinn offered to speak at the dinner if they would like him to.

Meeting dates for 2014 were set for **7:30 p.m.** as follows:

JANUARY 23	JULY – NO MEETING
FEBRUARY 27	AUGUST – NO MEETING
MARCH 27	SEPTEMBER 25
APRIL 24	OCTOBER 23
MAY 22	NOVEMBER 20 (THIRD THURSDAY)
JUNE 26	DECEMBER 18 (THIRD THURSDAY, IF NECESSARY)

Leaf Composting: Steve Quinn thinks it would be good to do composting within the Village. Jim Ruff will check with John Anlian to inquire about composting and start from there. The EC should look into this matter further. Jim will speak to John Anlian about this and take it from there.

Canada Goose: Steve Quinn said that now is a good time for the DPW to lay down black Japanese knotwood because the ground is bare. Steve will send an email to Commissioner MacNeill.

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

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca