

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JULY 23, 2015**

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 31st day of December, 2014. Members present were: Jim Ruff, Kevin Avery, Peter Garvey and Harry Menta. Peggy Conversano was also present.

The minutes of the March 26, 2015, meeting were approved. There were only notes on April 23, 2015, as only Peter Garvey was able to attend that night. There was no meeting in May as there was no quorum.

Correspondence received: 1) Attachment A Freshwater Wetlands Application Checklist Dated June 2015 Re: Application submitted by KABR Group c/o Jude Mason, 100 Challenger Road, Block 24.02, Lot 2

Old Business:

Eagles – No new developments but Kevin Avery did see three fledglings out of the nest.

Interpretive Signs – Steve Quinn has submitted his work to Fossil. Quote F67248 was received from Fossil in the amount of \$1,318.00 with a deposit due in the amount of \$838.00. A motion was made by Jim Ruff and seconded by Harry Menta to accept the proposal Quote F67248 in the amount of \$1,318.00. All were in favor of this motion. The quote will be submitted to the Clerk's Office for payment. Jim Ruff will email Fossil that the deposit check is on the way.

Riverside Park – No new developments but the EC will check on the status of the knotweed.

Nature Preserve – Peggy Conversano said she was recently at the Nature Preserve and there is a lot of green growth all around. It is estimated that about 25% of the plantings are viable, or about 100 trees.

Spring Bird Count - The spring bird count was held on May 9 before the Earth Day Celebration. The complete bird count is in the file.

Earth Day 2015 – Earth Day took place on May 9. The day was successful but the EC would have preferred to see a larger turn out.

Bat Houses - Peggy Conversano said she still has one spare bat house that needs to be hung in a park.

Tree Walk - Commissioner Anlian will be contacted to see which date works better for him, October 10 or 17. The deadline for the fall newsletter is August 12 so Harry Menta needs the date so it is advertised in the fall newsletter.

New Business:

Sustainable Jersey program - Commissioner Anlian would like to see RP officially participating in the Sustainable Jersey program. Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. The link for the program is www.sustainablejersey.com.

In order to participate, RP must, by resolution, appoint a Green Team. All members of the EC should be on the Green Team. Peggy Conversano would also like to serve on the Green Team. Commissioner Anlian also needs to be a part as well. Other suggested names were Alan O'Grady and/or Donna

McEntee as well as possibly Charlie Gneiding from the Police Dept. since he handled the unused medication collections.

Once the resolution is approved and members appointed, it will be easier to divide up the necessary requirements so that RP can get credit for many of the activities that it already does. There are projects such as the eradication of the knotweed, the nature preserve, eagle protection, public education, Earth Day, school projects, animal shows, etc., that just need to be documented so that proper credit can be given to RP so it earns the necessary 150 points. The goal is to be able to submit the application for 2016.

Jim Ruff will contact Commissioner Anlian to get the process started and discuss possible appointments to the Green Team. It might be a good idea to hold an informal meeting/workshop session where members can utilize their computers to begin organizing the Green Team.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2015, at **7:30 p.m.**

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca