

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.

**NOTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2015**

Due to other obligations, the only member present was Peter Garvey.

The minutes of the March 26, 2015, meeting could not be approved as there was no quorum.

Correspondence received: 1) Copy of letter dated March 25, 2015, from Mayor Fosdick to USF&W regarding Skymark 2) Copy of Application for a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit to NJDEP for work at the Bergen Generating Station, Project No, 217589 from TRC 3) Application for NJDEP Waterfront Development Permit in support of Northeast Grid Reliability Project 4) invitation to Arbor Day to be held on April 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Ridgefield Park Junior/Senior High School

Old Business:

Interpretive Signs – Steve Quinn has been in contact with Fossil regarding the signs.

Riverside Park – Kevin Avery and Peter Garvey checked on the condition of Riverside Park prior to Earth Day. The bat house made by the girl scouts is lying on the ground. Action needs to be taken to secure, remove or re-erect these entities. Commissioner Anlian will be asked to contact the DPW about fixing the bat houses for Earth Day.

Nature Preserve – Kevin Avery and Peter Garvey submitted their report on the Nature Preserve Tree Plantings, April 2015. They visited the site on April 12, 2015. They have photographs of the current appearance of the planted area.

Peter Garvey made an informal estimate of the still viable plantings at about 20% of the approximately 425 set down by the boy scouts three years ago. (A few saplings are emerging conspicuously from their protective tubes.) 20% is a conservative estimate: there may be main evidence of new or more viable plants – as many as 20% more – but it is difficult to determine their state due to their relatively small size and the uncertain evidence of new growth (buds), as perceptible from the top of the tube. The success rate seems to be greater the farther down the hill the planting is located.

The photographs, as of April 12, show the invasive growth around the tubes was mostly detritus from last season. Its thickness (and prickliness) is greater near the bottom of the slope than at the top (in concert with the success rate of the plantings), where there is more light.

There is probably a window of only a few weeks before ground cover around the plantings begins to reassert itself.

Spring Bird Count - The spring bird count will be held on May 9 before the Earth Day Celebration. It will begin at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park and last until 10:00 a.m. Those interested can also meet at 8:30 a.m. at the amphitheater in Overpeck County Park.

Earth Day 2015 – Everything is in place for May 9 (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) High tide is 2:37 p.m. that day. The show schedule is as follows:

11:30 a.m. Eyes of the Wild/Wallaby Tales
12:30 p.m. Tenaflly Nature Center
2:30 p.m. Snakes-N-Scales

The Wildlife will host an all-day educational wildlife program with live bats and educational wildlife exhibit stand. The face painter will be available throughout the day. Risky Business Bluegrass Band will provide

the music. The scouts will handle the food. Boat rides will also be available. The Clerk's Office will give the checks for the presenters to the EC before Earth Day so the vendors can be paid at that time. There will be a spring bird count beginning at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park and lasting until 10:00 a.m. Interested parties can also meet up with the EC at 8:30 a.m. at the amphitheater in Overpeck County Park. The Hudson Fishermen are not available this year. Batman will be there all day. If he wants to do a specific presentation, he could fit in at 1:30.

Sustainable NJ: The Mayor would like to see RP officially participating in this 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. Although RP does many of the things they suggest, it is not officially registered as a participant in the program.

The EC did look at the sustainable New Jersey requirements, and the deadline for this year's submission is June 7. In order to apply for the first level, you need to document 150 points. Most items are ten points each.

The EC will begin to work on this, but after looking at the requirements, it does not seem like it would be possible to attempt to apply for this year. There is simply too much documentation to assemble.

The first step the EC must take is to appoint a "Green Team". This will be discussed when all members are present. The EC can then come up with a recommended list.

There are some small grants available through the program that maybe the EC could get involved with. The link for the program is www.sustainablejersey.com.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May, 28, 2015, at **7:30 p.m.**

The unofficial meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca