

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 22, 2015**

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:35 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: James Ruff, Kevin Avery and Peter Garvey.

The minutes of the November 20, 2014, meeting were approved.

Correspondence received: None at this time.

Old Business:

Eagles – Kevin Avery said that Skymark has been before the Planning Board and is scheduled to appear again on January 26, 2015. They have reduced the square footage of the project to accommodate a 330' radius they must observe. The EC's understanding is that the Fish & Wildlife Service letter dated October 29, 2014, called for a 660' buffer of the nest during breeding season or roosting season. Jim Ruff will email Don Smith to get his opinion on this. He will also inform him that Skymark is planning to be heard at the January 26 meeting and expects a vote to take place. Skymark might need to take this up with Fish & Wildlife and see if their proposed plan is acceptable. Kevin Avery said he will ask at the Planning Board meeting on Monday. It appears that Skymark is proposing a 330' radius buffer zone.

The Eagle Rally held on January 10, 2015, by the Audubon Society went well.

Interpretive Signs – Steve Quinn said he would continue to work on the drawings if the EC wanted him to. Kevin Avery has given the text to Steve Quinn.

Riverside Park – Jim Ruff will approach John Anlian on this project. The EC needs to source and order the plants for this. Jim has a list of plants that Don Smith recommended such as switch grass, willow tree, rosa rugosa and red cedar as well as sources for those. The EC will start small with this project to see what will grow in that space before investing a large amount into plants. Jim will start researching sources for the plants.

Again, regular scheduled maintenance is necessary to keep this park in presentable condition. John Anlian's input will be necessary on this project. Hopefully, when the plastic is removed in the spring, most of the knotweed will have died.

Nature Preserve – Kevin Avery and Peter Garvey will check out this area in March to evaluate it. It is too large an undertaking for the EC to manage on its own. The EC will ask Commissioner Anlian about his suggestion on how to handle this challenge. Should outside help be hired to handle the long-term care of this area? Should a consultant be called in to seek advice? If this is going to be made into any type of destination, scheduled maintenance must be done on a regular basis.

Grants – Harry Menta looked into some information on grants but the project information would be due by April. They want specific details such as costs, what will be done, etc. There are open space grants.

Winter Bird Count - The winter bird count was held on December 6 and the findings are attached.

Earth Day 2015 – Jim Ruff checked the tides schedule and it looks like May 9 (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) would be the best day for the boat. High tide is 2:37 p.m. that day. Invitations were sent to:

Cub Scouts

Girls Scouts

Dr. Richardson – Public Schools

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| Troop 3 (to handle food) | Bergen County Audubon | Flat Rock Brook Nature Preserve |
| Rescue Squad | Police Dept. | Capt. Bill Sheehan |
| Ambulance Corps | Fire Dept. & OEM Office | Mosquito Control Division – Peter Pluchino |
| DPW | Shade Tree Commission | Lenape Lifeways (can't hurt to ask) |
| BCUA | Bruce Herrick | Facepainter - Angel |
| The Wild Life | GJEM Insurance | NJ Meadowlands Commission |
| Risky Business | Puffin Group | Teaneck Creek Conservancy |
| Snakes 'n Scales | Tenaflly Nature Center | Sergio Radossi – Hudson River Fishermen |
| Eyes of the Wild | Wanda Canoe Club | Wild Dog Foundation |

Tenaflly Nature Center confirmed. Jim signed the contract and returned it. They put on the contract they would present from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Risky Business Band confirmed and sent an invoice. The girl and cub scouts have already confirmed. Bergen County Audubon has confirmed. The EC will need to work on a schedule for the day.

New Business: Meeting dates for 2015 are as follows:

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| JANUARY 22 | JULY 23 (IF NECESSARY) |
| FEBRUARY 26 | AUGUST 27 (IF NECESSARY) |
| MARCH 26 | SEPTEMBER 24 |
| APRIL 23 | OCTOBER 22 |
| MAY 28 | NOVEMBER 19 (THIRD THURSDAY) |
| JUNE 25 | DECEMBER 17 (THIRD THURSDAY, IF NECESSARY) |

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015, at **7:30 p.m.**

The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca