

## **NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION APRIL 25, 2013**

Chairman James Ruff called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 28th day of December, 2012. Members present were: James Ruff, Kevin Avery, Peter Garvey, Harry Menta, Steve and Linda Quinn. Also present were: Jules Rotella and the Girl Scout working on her Gold Badge, Ariana.

The minutes of the March 28, 2013, meeting was approved.

#### **Old Business:**

**Eagles** – Resolution No. 2013-1 Protection of Eagle was submitted to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. Buoys have been installed by the nest.

The letter written by Steve Quinn and Kevin Avery was put on hold. If it is to be sent, it will need to be revised. Steve Quinn thinks the letter should be sent now so that the thoughts of the Environmental Commission are in writing and made known. Steve Quinn said he thinks there is a regional concern about the eagles.

The Environmental Commission's concern is maintaining the nest in the Village. Gil Hawkins suggested platforms in another area of the Overpeck. Steve Quinn thinks the farther the nest is put, the less likely the eagles will use the nest. Think of the possibility of using this opportunity as part of the effort to maintain the nest and enhance the habitat of the Lincoln Paper property.

Jim Ruff wonders if they do a sub-divide that it may gather temporary relief for this development. The DEP will probably still require a remediation at some point. Kevin Avery thinks the letter should be revised and sent out. He will work on the letter changes and then send it out to members for comment before he sends the letter.

Kevin Avery and Steve Quinn met with Skymark after the Environmental Commission meeting. Kevin Avery said it seemed like there wasn't a lot of consensus. It seemed like Skymark was proposing a nest tower in spite of the discussion that took place at the first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the tower and comment on its design and suitability. In the first meeting, the Environmental Commission expressed their opinion that it was likely the eagles would not use the tower and it would be best to leave the nest and encourage the developer to seek relief from capping the property and subdivide to include an eagle sanctuary. It seems that was not pursued, only the tower was pursued. Some still felt the tower could be explored so it could be designed in a manner that was attractive.

The Environmental Commission felt a manmade tower was not something that should be pursued. Gil Hawkins felt a tower was something that should be explored. No one has heard anything back.

**RP Nature Preserve** – The Environmental Commission got some work done but the area could use some rain. Nick Gherkin's Eagle ceremony is June 9. The Environmental Commission should probably speak for the ceremony and present a plaque to Nick. Kevin Avery and Peter Garvey will take care of this.

**Dock replacement** – The only thing that has surfaced from the last meeting is information from John Anlian. Jodie Jamison is procuring funds from Lincoln Park to Waterfront Park. They did not apply for FEMA because the dock was in bad shape prior to Sandy.

Steve Quinn wonders if it would be possible to get a boat launch at the park. Jim Ruff said

he will send an email to Jodie Jamison to inquire. Steve Quinn said the Environmental Commission should find out what is involved with the plans. The Commission needs to ask exactly what the plans are and see if the Commission needs to provide public access.

**Interpretive Signs** – Steve Quinn said that now that he is retired he will have more time to work on the signs. He has about 20 sketches done. Kevin Avery said he has the text for one sign and maybe the Environmental Commission should start with one sign to see how it works out.

**Earth Day** – There was a very good turnout for Earth Day. The shows were very good. The weather was also pretty good so it really helped attract people. Being able to hold the shows outside also made the day more successful.

**Bird Watch** – The bird watch is scheduled for May 4, 2013. It will begin at the high school at 7:00 a.m. and by the amphitheater in the county park at 9:00 a.m.

**Bat Watch** – Joe Angeli said to give him some dates to schedule the bat watch. He said he could give a presentation at the high school during the bat watch. June would be perfect for the bat watch. Jim Ruff will look into this.

**Girl Scout Project** – Ariana said she will be planting at Vogt Park on Lincoln Avenue at 9:00 a.m. on May 18. She is ordering flowers on Sunday. Anyone who wants to help out is welcome.

**New Business:** None at this time.

There is work being done by the high school. The EC will ask Commissioner Anlian if he knows what is happening.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2013.

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca