

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 23, 2011**

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 29th day of December, 2010. Members present were: James Ruff, Steve Quinn and Linda Quinn. Also present at the meeting was Kevin Avery, James Garvey, Harry Menta and Commissioner Anlian.

The minutes of the May 26, 2011, meeting was approved.

Jim Ruff said he did speak to Maureen Nassan and she was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She would like to come to the September meeting with her children.

Jim Ruff did draft a letter to the Commissioners expressing interest and desire to have some kind of input during the design phase of the proposed pedestrian bridge connecting Ridgefield Park with Overpeck County Park.

The BCUA has added batteries to the household hazardous waste list.

Commissioner Anlian suggested that the Commission put something into the next newsletter advising that the Commission is looking for people who care about the environment and are interested in working with the Environmental Commission. Harry Menta will handle the newsletter for the Commission. Linda Quinn will get him the dates for submittal of information. The Commission should include something about batteries and how to dispose of them. It should also advertise for volunteers willing to give an hour or two a month. The Commission should advertise that it will be at the street fair and people should stop by the table.

The Environmental Commission needs to work on a schedule. The next meeting is September 22, 2011. The street fair is October 29 and the Commission should set up a table at the street fair. November would be a good time for a reorganization meeting because the Commission could solicit for new members at the street fair and then see if there are any new volunteers.

Kevin Avery said he had recently seen the eagles as late as Monday. They should be flying soon.

Jim Ruff contacted Bergen County Parks to see if power boats were allowed. No one seems to know the answer. Jim will reach out to Gil Hawkins to see if he knows if power boats are allowed.

Old Business: The Commission should actively move on the interpretive signs. Steve Quinn will work on the artwork for the signs and recirculate the mail about what will be on the sign. McGowan Park should have two signs and Riverfront Park should also have two signs. John Anlian has the information on the fabricator.

Steve Quinn was wondering if the Commission should sponsor a RP Nature Association but the Commission felt it could sponsor the same events at this time. The Commission thinks it would be a good idea to sponsor one day events. Some events to be considered are a Christmas bird count, tree walk, spring bird count. John Anlian thought it would be a good idea to hold a Nature Day. It might be a good idea to team up with the Wanda Canoe Club and/or Riverkeeper to host a water event. The results of these events should be published for residents to see what is in Ridgefield Park.

The Commission should also focus on what can be done with the nature preserve. The public could go into the area that the Village does control.

Steve Quinn said he will write up a description of the tree count and bird count to put in the newsletter. October 1 will be the tree hike. The Commission will see if the Shade Tree Commission would like to jointly sponsor this event. The Board count will be held in the winter and spring. The spring count will be announced in the newsletter. The Commission needs to look into a possible canoe day with the Wanda Canoe Club and/or Riverkeeper. Jim Ruff said he will contact the Riverkeeper to see if there is an interest.

Kevin Avery has pictures of interpretive signs that he will get to Steve Quinn. They will look at what other towns have and ask them where their signs were made.

The Commission was thinking that a clean-up day might be a good idea before Earth Day and will speak to the schools to see if they are interested in participating.

The next meeting is scheduled is for Thursday, September 22, 2011.

The meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca