

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
April 22, 2004**

Chairman Jim Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 on the 29th day of December, 2003, and to the Star-Ledger on the 29th day of December, 2003. Members present were: Jim Ruff, Barbara Frimmer, Kathy Jacob, Dana Moaven, Maureen Nassan and Linda Quinn. Bruce Herrick and Madeline Cappuccio were also present.

The minutes of the February 26, 2004, meeting were approved.

Madeline Cappuccio was present to ask about a neighbor's complaint regarding her backyard birdfeeder. Her yard is registered as a backyard wildlife habitat. She has a neighbor that has complained about her birdfeeders and pigeons in the neighborhood and called the Board of Health. The Board of Health informed her that she could not have food on the ground so she uses seeds without a hull. The Board of Health found no violations on her property. The neighbor has threatened to get a petition started so he could request an ordinance be passed prohibiting backyard feeding.

Ms Cappuccio contacted the Audubon Society and was told to contact John Quinn. The Commission informed her that they would be against any ordinance prohibiting backyard feeding. The Commission also informed her that they would support backyard feeding if it ever was questioned by the Mayor and Board of Commissioner and welcomed her to join the Commission.

Earth Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2004. Members should meet at 9:00 a.m. to begin set-up. All members will be present with the exception of Barbara Frimmer, who is unable to attend. Maureen Nassan must first attend a funeral and will come around noon.

Bruce Herrick was present to advise that he had not gotten any response from community service students and apologized for this lack of response. The Commission informed Bruce that it was not his fault that no students had responded to the posting of the memo. The Commission advised that it would call Mr. Koenig in the morning to see if he could find any students to help out.

Maureen Nassan said that she would drop everything off at the DPW. Maureen bought utensils (to be saved for future events), charcoal, lighter fluid, etc. She also went shopping with Barbara Frimmer to Costco and bought \$350.00 in food for Grant School Sixth Grade Committee to sell at the celebration. Donna Blue is

the parent contact she uses from Grant School. Maureen Nassan will make the sign for the pizza party and will tally the results for the winning class.

Flyers were sent to all schools reminding them of Earth Day and listing the time of Dave Street's performance. John Gavin of The Record will be writing a story on Earth Day to appear in Friday's paper. The give-away hats are ready.

Bob Perna is done with the first phase of planting at Riverfront Park. Maureen Nassan received three quotes, which were given to Sarah Warlikowski at the Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Maureen Nassan, which was seconded by Jim Ruff, to pay the \$1,900.00 installment for the first one-third of the cost of the planting to Second Nature Landscaping. All were in favor of this motion. The balance of \$3,835.00 will be paid when the invoice is received.

A motion was made by Maureen Nassan, which was seconded by Jim Ruff, to pay an additional \$3,835.00 to Second Nature Landscaping, for the balance of the work done at Riverfront Park. All were in favor of this motion.

The next deadline for the Village Newsletter is May 14. It was suggested that Madeline Cappuccio be asked if she would like to do an article on backyard feeding.

The latest grant was denied, as there were twice as many requests as there was grant money. The Commission needs to think of a new type of grant for next year.

It was discussed that next year the Commission will coordinate with other organizations to have a Ridgefield Park Clean-Up Day and try to involve the schools, civic organizations, local businesses and residents to have a village-wide clean-up day.

A letter was sent to Commissioner D'Auria on February 27, 2004, regarding the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division requesting permission to perform aerial spraying in Ridgefield Park as needed throughout the summer months. The Commission inquired if permission was granted despite its objections and also inquired what would be sprayed. No response has been received to date.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca