

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Jim Ruff began the meeting at 7:00 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. Roll call was taken. Members present were: Jim Ruff, Barbara Frimmer, Kathy Jacob, Dana Moaven and Maureen Nassan. Linda Quinn advised that she was unable to attend the meeting. Also present was Amy Bologna, a citizen who asked a question about pesticide use.

The minutes of the November 20, 2003, meeting were approved.

A message was forwarded to the Environmental Commission that was received from the e-mail contact form. Amy Bologna had questioned about the use of pesticides and if it would have any effect on her garden. Jim Ruff drafted an answer that was forwarded to Amy Bologna. The Commission referred her to some websites for information and advised that if possible, it would be better not to use the pesticides and instead opt for organic pesticides. There is a false impression given to the public that if use of pesticide is allowable, then it is safe. This is not necessarily true. Amy Bologna questioned if the Village could forbid this type of spraying. The Commission advised that an ordinance would have to be passed to prohibit this spraying. It is a great possibility that it will not happen but at least her opinion would be voiced.

The Commission will send its annual letter regarding mosquito spraying to the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Fosdick attended the Watershed Management 5 meeting and the Environmental Resource Inventory was entered. Ridgefield Park was one of only two towns that entered the information.

Regarding the latest grant, Jim Ruff submitted the grant application for another series of educational programs in the schools. He received a letter back stating that this year there were 86 applications received requesting over \$205,000 and there is only \$100,000 in the program. Each year the amount of applications is increasing. The Commission will be notified by March 15 if the application is accepted. Maureen Nassan suggested that the Hackensack Riverkeeper be used for this grant and a donation sent to them. The Commission also received information from the Franklin Institute on running programs.

Jim Ruff will be working on a closeout report for the Dave Street Grant.

Alan O'Grady advised that he doesn't have the available crew to do the planting for Bob Perna. Maureen said that the \$5,000 budgeted needs to be used in the spring. She said that Alan and Bob have to get together so that this is done before Earth Day. Maureen feels that if Alan can't do it then Bob Perna should be paid to do the planting. Maureen will contact Bob Perna to do a spring planting.

The deadline for the Village Newsletter is February 13. The Commission will write something about Earth Day for the next Newsletter. Maureen Nassan asked Amy Bologna to write something about alternative uses for pesticides and email it to her.

Maureen Nassan spoke to Risky Business to confirm that they would be performing at the Earth Day Celebration at Riverfront Park. Dave Street also will be doing a program. Maureen also advised that the celebration would be a combination of Earth Day/Arbor Day and that the Shade Tree Commission would be setting up a table and inviting the school children to participate. The Commission needs to publicize the event and get the schools involved. A letter has already been sent to the schools and reminder letters will also be sent again asking for participation.

Barbara Frimmer asked if it was possible to give some funds to the schools to aid in projects for Earth Day.

Letters reminding organizations that they are invited to participate in Earth Day were sent to: the DPW, the Village Gardeners, St. Francis, Dr. Richardson, the Wanda Canoe Club, Capt. Bill Sheehan, John Quinn, the girls scouts and the boy scouts. Another letter was also sent to GJEM Insurance Agency asking for the certificate of insurance to hang the banner on Main Street from April 19-26, 2004.

Maureen Nassan said that she still has to talk to the company regarding the interpretive signs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

Absent Members: Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn and John Zuzek.