

**NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING TO START AT COMPLETION OF GREEN TEAM MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

Vice-Chairperson Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Mark Olson, Leslie Olson, Linda Quinn, Peggy Conversano, Gloria Rivera, Joe Rella, Flo Muller and Kimberley Calabrese. Commissioner John Anlian also stopped at the meeting for a short time as he had a Commissioner's meeting at the same time.

The first half of the meeting is a meeting of the Green Team. John Anlian explained that the Ordinance has now been passed and members can be appointed at the next Commissioner's meeting. He is working on the members and their terms. The Green Team will be made up of 7 regular members and 2 alternates who will be appointed for a term of 3 years. Associate members will be appointed for 1 year. There will be Ex-Officio members – Village Clerk, Police Chief, Supt. of DPW, Commissioner in charge of the Environmental Commission – each one can designate one person to attend the meeting for them.

The seven regular members will be the voting members. Alternates can vote in the event that one or two regular members are not in attendance. The initial terms will be staggered so that terms end at different times.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Joe Rella, approving the minutes of the August 25, 2016, meeting.

New Business: Leslie Olson brought some articles written by Elaine Silverstein, a horticulturist. Leslie reached out to her to see if the EC could reuse some of these articles as an insert in the next newsletter.

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey Actions: Leslie Olson would like to see some data starting with the next meeting. By Thanksgiving, she would like to start uploading the application form. If anyone has something tonight, it can be emailed to Leslie so she can enter it into the system.

The Shade Tree Commission has a forestry plan in place already. They will get the CD for Leslie. Kim Calabrese asked what she should be doing. She didn't want to duplicate work. She will sit with someone after the meeting to see what is needed to be done.

Nature Preserve – There was another energetic weeding meeting. Slowly some progress is being made. Leslie has discussed with John Anlian the path that he wants to initiate. He has someone who will look at the trail and give a quote. The next meeting of the weed warriors will be October 15 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. followed by the following meeting scheduled for November 12. Notice will go out to interested parties.

Flo Muller had a question about bats. She was interested in getting a bat house for her house but someone told her that if bats get into your house they are hard to get out. The EC explained that this is not necessarily true. Bats do not like to live in a house and if they get in, it is by mistake. Peggy Conversano said she has some extra bat houses if Flo is interested. At the next meeting when Joe D'Angeli is available, bat houses will be discussed further.

Leslie Olson told members to feel free to start emailing her so she can begin uploading. The goal is to shoot for as many points as can be done in case things are not accepted.

Joe Rella said the next prescription drug take back day is scheduled for October 22. He will email information after that date.

As far as charging stations, Joe got one email back but he has not read it through yet. He thought automobile companies would be anxious to supply charging stations, but it does not seem to be the case. He did have the traffic officer look at the task of creating parking spaces but it does not apply to RP.

The next regular meeting of the Green Team is scheduled for October 27, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m. for the Green Team and followed immediately by the meeting of the Environmental Commission.

At this time, 7:35 p.m., the meeting of the Green Team finished and the business to be conducted at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting began.

Correspondence received – 1) Letter from Mayor dated 9/6/16 regarding interpretive signs
2) Reminder that next newsletter deadline is October 14
3) Memo from Douglas Hansen dated September 21, 2016 – Re: Emergency Communications Planning

Recycling Receptacles – Donna Rose-McEntee of the DPW found something similar to the trash receptacles already there. Joe Rella pointed out that for safety reasons, the bags should be clear and the containers themselves should be somewhat open so a police officer can see in when walking past. He will provide Donna Rose-McEntee with some vendor information. It is the HPC that will determine what is right as most containers are in the historic district. The HPC indicated they were in favor of adding recycling containers.

Nature Preserve – Sign has been ordered and the voucher processed for payment. Mark Olson thinks it would be helpful to have a user friendly rendering of what the nature preserve could be so people get an idea of what the nature preserve could be and take some ownership in it. There are nature scape planners that do this type of work.

Mark brought some pictures from Central Park of different types of trails that can be done as well as some of the plantings done in the park so members can get an idea of what might be available.

Sustainable Jersey program – Leslie Olson encourages people to begin emailing information to her. By Thanksgiving she would like to start downloading the tasks.

Interpretive Panels – Both panels have been installed. One was installed at McGowan Park and the other at Riverfront Park behind the DPW. The Patriot did a nice story on the panels. The Mayor is very pleased with the panels and would like to see a similar, but historical sign, on Euclid Avenue describing the historic nature of the plazas.

Facebook/Webpage – Joe D'Angeli continues to work on the Facebook and Webpage. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparkgreenteam/>. It is a work in progress. The EC would like to see some useful links added to them. Mark Olson had several suggestions.

New Business – None at this time.

The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2016. The meeting of the Green Team will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting of the EC.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca