

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M. (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREEN TEAM MEETING)

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JANUARY 26, 2017**

Vice-Chairperson Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village message board. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, and Joseph D'Angeli. Not Present: Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn, Gloria Rivera, James Ruff. Hernan Osorio was also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, approving the minutes of the December 15, 2016, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

Approval of Bills: No new bills this month but \$250.00 was sent to the Hackensack Riverkeeper for continued use of the boats and informational tables. Members felt that was appropriate.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Correspondence:

1) Oaths of Office for Harry Menta, Peggy Conversano, James Ruff
2) Earth Day responses: **Yes** – Mad Science, Wanda Canoe Club, Dyan Thieman – Elementary Schools, Hackensack Riverkeeper, Bergen County Mosquito Control, Mark Rust, Bergen County Master Gardeners

No – Audubon, BCUA, RPPD

3) Bergen County Parks online survey – <http://cues.rutgers.edu/bergen-park-system/>

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey Actions – This was covered in the previous GT meeting held prior to the EC meeting tonight.

Bat Houses – Mark Olson spoke to Alan O'Grady on Monday and asked if the bat houses were still up. Mark asked Commissioner Anlian to take them down so they can be given back to the girl scouts so they can be made multi-chamber. Peggy Conversano thinks there are three bat houses installed that need to be made multi-chamber. Commissioner Anlian is not in any way opposed to putting them on the building.

The EC agreed that there should be a nice-sized bat house in the community garden. Wild Birds Unlimited has bat houses. They should be invited to Earth Day 2017. Joe D'Angeli said he will talk to the Boy Scouts about bat houses.

Nature Preserve – The main entrance sign should be installed soon and will be installed on Overpeck Avenue unless something changes. The other two signs approved at a prior meeting, the sign for uses within the nature preserve like no motorized vehicles, pick up after your pet, etc., were ordered from Fossil.

The EC needs an update from Commissioner Anlian and Steve Quinn on interconnecting the park. It sounds like the county might be interested in a nature preserve. Mark Olson did speak with Steve Quinn and the nature preserve will be a carry in/carry out facility meaning there will be no trash cans available.

Weed Warriors – This will start up again in the spring.

Recycling Containers – The DPW has ordered and will install an additional 10 cans to replace the concrete containers in town. One side will be for trash and the other side will be for recycling.

Earth Day – Invitations have gone out to everyone and responses have started coming in. Dyan Thieman is the representative from the elementary schools for Earth Day. The EC will make sure the high school is also participating. Leslie said maybe it is time to issue a challenge to the high school students to be creative and see what they can make with recyclable items. Leslie said she will think about this but does want to make sure the high school is involved.

Peggy Conversano asked if the EC might be able to use the school buses as a shuttle for Earth Day since parking is very limited. It would also send the appropriate Earth Day message to people since it would limit multiple cars at the event as the buses are much more environmentally friendly.

Mark Olson will contact Lisa Infantino of Troop 3 to let her know that the EC will provide the paper goods so that foam is not used at the event. The EC prefers that all vendors are “green” and is looking for green vendors to host a table at the Earth Day/Green Day event scheduled for May 13.

Joe D’Angeli said he knows someone that might be willing to sell honey. He will check with them. Peggy said she will check with the Girl Scout leader she knows. Mark asked if maybe they might want to do something with the girl scouts from Bogota. She said she will check.

Leslie Olson said she has black burlap bags used for coffee beans in her basement. She would like to offer them to the girl scouts to see if they could do something with them that would be appropriate for Earth Day. She will drop one off to Peggy to see if the girl scouts can do anything with them.

In another month or so, a sub-committee will probably need to be formed for Earth Day/Green Day since a lot of details are going to need to be completed and kept track of.

ANJEC – Mark Olson will check on a date for ANJEC to come in and talk about storm water runoff. The EC will notify the Board of Commissioners, Alan O’Grady, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of the date of this program.

Meeting dates for 2017 were set for the fourth Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the meeting of the Green Team, in the courtroom on the third floor of the municipal building:

JANUARY 26	JULY 27 (IF NECESSARY)
FEBRUARY 23	AUGUST 24 (IF NECESSARY)
MARCH 23	SEPTEMBER 28
APRIL 27	OCTOBER 26
MAY 25	NOVEMBER 16 (THIRD THURSDAY)
JUNE 22	DECEMBER 28 (IF NECESSARY)

New Business:

Elections – Nominations were taken for Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano nominating Steve Quinn as Chairman. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta nominating Leslie Olson as Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor of the motion.

Leslie Olson advised that Hernan Osorio was present to volunteer to handle the website for the EC.

Harry Menta asked if anyone read the recent article in the newspaper on the eagles. He was a bit disappointed that the EC was never mentioned anywhere in the article since the EC has been deeply involved in protecting the eagles. Don Torino did not work alone and it would have been nice if the EC was mentioned.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Joe D'Angeli to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Green Team meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca