

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

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017**

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 8:25 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 (who had to leave at the start of the meeting), Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn, Gloria River and Joseph D'Angeli. Not Present: Peggy Conversano (excused), James Ruff. Hernan Osorio was also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson, approving the minutes of the January 26, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of this motion.

**Approval of Bills:**

- 1) Funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 were encumbered under PO#15462 for Earth Day/Green Fair 2017.
- 2) PO#15456 in the amount of \$220 for Storm Water Management Meeting scheduled for 3/30/17

**Hearing of Citizens:** Hernan Osorio was present to work on the website.

**Correspondence:**

- 1) Earth Day responses: **Yes** – Mad Science Show + 2 activity tables  
**No** – Wild Birds Unlimited

**Old Business:**

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

**Bat Houses** – Mark Olson and Joe D'Angeli are working on the bat houses. They plan on making two bat houses. One will be put in McGowan Park and one at the high school. If anyone wants to help with this project, they are welcome. They want to get the bat houses up so they get weathered. Joe D'Angeli will meet with Jim Donohue to discuss students building bat houses. Joe is partnering with the Boy Scouts of NJ for wildlife education.

**Future of Nature Preserve** – Commissioner Anlian advised Steve Quinn that Ridgefield Park's grant application was withdrawn. RP would have been awarded a \$48,000.00 grant this year but Open Space advised RP that next year they anticipated having much more money and if RP withdrew its application and reapplied, next year RP would be awarded much more money.

Mark Olson brought a sample of a porous pavement that he received. Steve said that the large sign for the nature preserve came in. The place where the sign originally was going to be installed is where the neighbors put their garbage. Steve will wait to put the sign in until there is a trail. Mark Olson said that the EC should put in a wood chip trail for the time being. Steve will speak to Alan O'Grady about a wood chip trail. Two additional signs are in the works under PO#15282.

**Earth Day** – Earth Day is scheduled for May 13, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Anlian will be reminded to update the banners for Main Street. The Spring Bird count will be held in the morning before the start of Earth Day from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Harry Menta will do a write up about Earth Day.

Hernan Osorio will be giving away free organic coffee. Mark Olson said he will have a solar company present as part of the Green Fair vendors scheduled for the same day. The contact info for the solar company is: NRG, Toni Massano, Event Coordinator, Office 732-430-2400, [Toni.Massano@nrg.com](mailto:Toni.Massano@nrg.com).

**ANJEC** – Mark Olson scheduled March 30, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the courtroom for ANJEC to come in and talk about storm water runoff. Mark Olson sent a memo to the Board of Commissioners, Alan O'Grady, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of the date of this program.

**New Business:**

Tara O'Grady will be asked if the EC can get a telephone extension so there is a voicemail available for messages.

There was an email from ANJEC regarding a workshop on Complying with New Jersey Stormwater Regulations to be held on Monday, March 6, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Phillipsburg Library, 200 Broubalow Way, Phillipsburg. Leslie Olson thinks it is important that the EC start attending these workshops to represent the Village. She said she would be willing to drive to the seminar if anyone wanted to attend with her.

Mark Olson said that the Green Team will serve as CSO advisory for the Village of Ridgefield Park.

**Eagles** - Bergen County Audubon has noted an instance where trespassers on the Skymark property have disturbed the Bald Eagles. Disturbance at this critical time, just when the eggs are about to be laid, could cause the pair to abort nesting. This may be over-zealous photographers trying to get a photo of the nest or it may be Skymark staff. Steve advised John Anlian that maybe we should probably notify Skymark of this and also notify the RP Police to be on the lookout for trespassers at the Skymark entrance gate area. Steve asked the Audubon Society to contact the State Fish and Game to supply additional no trespassing signs on the Skymark property.

**Shirts** – New shirts will be ordered for members. It was suggested that the logo on the shirt be the same but just add Environmental Commission/Green Team on the shirts so members who belong to both commissions can wear them. The EC will also look into hats.

**Grant** – Leslie Olson had read about a grant available for a trail map or information board. The EC could get both for about \$2,000.00. Leslie will look into this.

Mark Olson said he has gotten information on herbs to give away free at Earth Day. He can get them for \$15.00 for 25 plants at the local hardware store. The EC will also order 100 canvas bags to hand out at Earth Day. They will be similar to the ones previously distributed that promote recycling.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca