

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M. (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREEN TEAM MEETING)

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

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 8:12 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, Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn and Joseph D'Angeli. Not Present: James Ruff. Hernan Osorio and Jinah Jong (interested citizen) were also present at the meeting.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson, approving the minutes of the February 23, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the 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) Quote No. 75837 from Fossil Industries for four signs for the Nature Preserve in the amount of \$2,021.00

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to approve Quote No. 75837 from Fossil Industries for four signs rather than two signs in the amount of \$2,021.00. All were in favor of the motion.

A short discussion was held on the signs. Leslie Olson asked Steve if Fossil was the company of choice for signs. Steve said for this type of sign, yes, it was the preferred company. It is graffiti proof. Steve Quinn will contact Jim Ruff to find out about the wooden sign the EC used to display at Earth Day. Steve would like to include the EC's email address and telephone number on the sign. Tara O'Grady will be asked if an extension was assigned to the EC yet.

Hearing of Citizens: Hernan Osorio was present to work on the website. Jinah Jong was present just to observe what goes on at the EC meetings. She is a new resident in the Village.

Correspondence:

- 1) Earth Day responses: **Yes** – Ambulance Corps
- 2) Invitation – 2017 BCEC Conference scheduled for March 21, 2017
- 3) Thank you letter dated March 1, 2017, from Hackensack Riverkeeper
- 4) Hackensack Tidelines

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey Actions – Most actions regarding this were discussed in the GT meeting held prior to the EC meeting tonight. Backyard composting and cut it or leave it should be included in the next newsletter. Steve Quinn and Leslie Olson will work on these submissions.

One of the major requirements for the action is to supplement it with talks to the community. Members should take pictures of talks. Some communities have offered free compost bins but it is not an option for the EC at this time.

April 8 is the next paper shredding day. This needs to be documented so it can be submitted.

Bat Houses – Joe D'Angeli said he has been working with New Milford boy scouts as an Eagle Scout project. He has five bat houses that are leftover. They are single chamber. One bat house will be put at Guillermo's church, one at the high school and one at McGowan Park. Peggy Conversano said she has two bat houses at home that can be installed somewhere.

Future of Nature Preserve – As was previously discussed last month, Commissioner Anlian advised Steve Quinn that Ridgefield Park's grant application was withdrawn since Open Space advised RP that next year they anticipated having much more money and if RP withdrew its application and reapplied, this year RP would be awarded much more money. Steve advised members that if anyone had time, they should check out the Bear Mountain trail. Look at their signs; they might be good for the Nature Preserve.

Grant – Leslie Olson said that April 7 is the deadline for the latest ANJEC grant application. ANJEC is providing small grants of up to \$1,500.00. The grant will fund environmental commission projects related to open space preservation, management, maintenance, restoration and education. Two-thirds of the grant will be paid to the commission upfront with the balance (1/3) to be paid upon completion.

Different suggestions on possible grant projects were discussed. Leslie explained the various aspects that must be submitted as part of the grant application. One project was a message board that members thought might be the best thing to apply for. Leslie Olson will write up a draft for the message board and contact Steve so it is completed on time.

Earth Day – Earth Day is scheduled for May 13, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Anlian stopped by briefly and was 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.

Mark and Leslie Olson went to Bogota to discuss the Green Fair. They have indicated additional people that will be participating. Five additional tables will be needed for: Bogota library, local pottery artisan, Betsy Stone, another artisan, Bogota Beautiful and the Bogota Girls Scouts who are partnering with the RP Girl Scouts. Info on the beekeeper who is presenting a show is: Northeast New Jersey Beekeepers Association, <http://www.nnjbees.org/>. The person coming is: Frank Mortimer, frankmort@gmail.com (201) 417-7309. Bogota also offered to do a flyer for the event. Mark will send a copy of the EC's flyer to Bogota with a copy of the show schedule to be included on the back.

Hernan Osorio will be giving away free organic coffee and will require electric. 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.

Steve and Linda Quinn drew up a plan for the tables, which will be filled in before the event. About 30 spaces will be available for the various displays. There will be two chairs at each table. Mark and Leslie said they told Bogota they have to provide their own tables and chairs. Mark and Leslie will be the greeters for the vendors organizing set-up at Earth Day. Linda and Steve will be leading the bird count starting at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park.

Commissioner Anlian will contact Sergio Radossi to see if he will be there with the NJ Outdoor Alliance, which is a big hit with the kids. Donna from the DPW will be asked to check the banners and have them updated to advertise the new date of May 13. A small sign reading Green Fair will be added underneath the sign.

Mark Olson said he has basil plants to give out at Earth Day. There will also be 100 recycle & reuse bags to be given away. Peggy Conversano will be contacting ANJEC about borrowing some games to play at Earth Day.

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. Members are encouraged to invite others to attend the talk.

New Business: Tara O'Grady will be asked again about the EC getting a telephone extension so there is a voicemail available for messages.

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

Eagles - Steve Quinn said this was the most phenomenal in wintering around the nest. There were 36 eagles spotted in February. Bergen County Audubon said Alice has not been around. There is a new female eagle.

There was a problem with over-zealous photographers by the nest. Harry Menta wrote a draft to be sent to the RP Police Chief asking them to periodically check on the area. Wintering birds have left the area.

Shirts – New shirts will be ordered for members. The logo on the shirt will be the same but just add Environmental Commission/Green Team on the shirts so members who belong to both commissions can wear it. If a member only belongs to one commission, the shirt will only list that commission. Sizes were taken for the shirts. Hats will also be ordered for members wishing hats.

In the future, the EC will think about possibly getting t-shirts for the Weed Warriors.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next regular meeting will be moved to Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Green Team meeting. The EC is invited to attend a talk given by Master Gardener Robyn Lowenthal on April 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the court room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca