

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREEN TEAM MEETING)**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
JUNE 22, 2017**

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:47 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: Peggy Conversano, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Linda Quinn and Stephen Quinn. Not Present: Joseph D'Angeli, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Gloria Rivera and James Ruff.

Hearing of Citizens: Jin Ah Jong and Sergio Radossi were present as guests.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, approving the minutes of the May 25, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills: No new bills were submitted.

Correspondence:

- 1) email from Francine Orovitz dated June 16, 2017, advising that the application for 190 Main Street has been adjourned until July 18th at 8:00 p.m.
- 2) email from Joe D'Angeli dated June 19, 2017, advising he will need a leave of absence
- 3) memo from Allison McLeod regarding 2017 Environmental Excellence Awards Seeking Application and 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards.pdf – Deadline 9/29/17
- 4) thank you from Jennifer Lampmann, Roosevelt School sixth grade teacher, for the ice cream party
- 5) pictures of the ice cream party from Deanna Griffin, Grant School third grade

As far as the application for 190 Main Street, the EC should decide if a letter should come from the EC on the application. There was a short discussion and the EC was against this application based on the impact of the parking situation and the quality of life issue.

A motion was made by Peggy Conversano and seconded by Steve Quinn to send a letter saying the EC is against the application of 190 Main Street and that the addition of 19 apartments and only 9 parking spaces, citing parking as the reason for denial.

Roll call was taken on the vote: Peggy Conversano, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Linda Quinn and Steven Quinn – vote yes on this motion 0 – no votes

As far as Joe D'Angeli, the EC will grant him a leave of absence to be revisited in September.

The EC feels that the Nature Preserve and the Community Gardens are wonderful projects to recommend for the Environmental Excellence Awards.

In addition to the note from Ms. Lampmann's sixth grade thanking the EC for the ice cream party, Peggy said she also has a card from Mrs. Suarez's sixth grade signed by all the students also thanking the EC for the ice cream party.

Harry Menta and John Anlian informed Steve Quinn that a teacher at Grant School sixth grade asked if he could give a presentation. Steve spoke with the class last Monday. They primarily wanted to know about a book, Hoot, and their saving a colony of owls. Steve spoke about the things that RP does like the bald eagles. Steve thinks it would be well advised to have a program to speak to the schools and speak to young people. This is where the young people are reached.

Old Business:

Fishing Derby: Sergio Radosi came to discuss assisting the EC with a fishing derby. Steve explained to Sergio that fishing has always been so popular and since it was rained out, the EC thought it might be a good idea to hold a fishing day in RP.

The EC has targeted October 21 because it is one of the state's free days. However, it falls on Wanda Canoe Club's race. Although the race is not a morning race, the park will be occupied with boats.

Sergio Radosi highlighted the following points:

1. Getting rods, reels and bait should not be an issue. The challenge is always signing up volunteers.
2. NJDEP has a fishing program called HOFNOD (Hooked on fishing, Not on Drugs). This is a great resource for this type of event. The program is run by Liz Jackson.
3. As you may already know, Bill Sheehan, the Hackensack River Keeper is a great resource.
4. In addition to the NJOA, there are two saltwater fishing clubs in the area which are resources. They are the Bergen County Salt Water Anglers and the Hudson River Fisherman's Assn.
5. October – September- November (even December) is an excellent time to fish the Hackensack River.
6. **The tides are important and should drive the derby date selection.**
7. **He knows there is an issue with an invasive weed along the river bank, behind the DPW. This is an access problem. (The EC advised the DPW will take care of this.)**
8. A fishing license is not required for the Hackensack River (below Cedar Lane in Teaneck).
9. However, since this is tidal (brackish) water, anglers need to get a NJ saltwater registry card (it is free). This is tied to marine fisheries management programs and marine fishery sustainability. Since NJ does not have a saltwater fishing license, NJ anglers need to get the registry card to be in compliance with NOAA requirements. (This is a good standard set for people to get them registered. It will help manage the resources in the Hackensack. You could have a computer there and register people on the spot.)
10. The registry issue could be an opportunity. The fishing derby might be tied to a seminar introducing kids (and parents) to marine fisheries conservation and sustainability. There is a fish tag and release program (similar to banding birds) which could be included. This is run by the American Littoral Society (Jeff Dement).

Sergio explained that 32 years ago he started Hooked on the Hudson. He appreciates the opportunity to be involved but does not want to be the main point person. He is willing to help and find the proper people and help with the resources but he does not want to be the guy in charge. He is involved with other activities in fishing and he goes on vacation in October. Logistically, he cannot be the person in charge.

This is not meant to be a contest. Hudson Fishing or Bergen County Anglers, because they are local, tell them this is what you want to do. Ask them to help with equipment, bait and volunteers. Reach out to the clubs to get the volunteers. In order to have this event, the DPW would need to clear the shoreline of weeds. Fall is the best time. Sergio can help with picking the proper day.

NJDEP has a program called Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs run by Liz Jackson. She can provide info and bags of stuff so kids can walk away with something. Depending on how you set it up, they can send people to set up an event.

Bill Sheehan is another great resource. The two local fishing clubs are also great resources. Sergio will look at the calendar and suggest dates.

It is important to teach people that the ocean is not an unlimited resource. Sergio will pick a date and then start contact with some of these groups.

Sustainable Jersey Actions – Most actions regarding this were discussed in the GT meeting held prior to the EC meeting tonight. Everything was submitted and the GT is waiting to hear back on the application.

Bat Houses – This task is on hold waiting for Mark Olson and Joe D'Angeli to start building the houses.

Future of Nature Preserve – Commissioner Anlian is working with the DPW and they are starting to remove the pile of debris. Main trail should be in place this summer. Lou Artuso lives on Overpeck Avenue and is concerned with parking from the nature preserve. The ultimate goal is to have the primary entrance down at the high school. The EC will make sure John Anlian's plan submitted to Bergen County Open Space's application does feature an entrance from the high school in the scope of the work. This will also open up the educational opportunities for the schools.

Steve will check with John Anlian to make sure that plan includes an entrance from the high school.

Bergen County Open Space Grant – Bergen County Open Space funds have been submitted and John Anlian is hoping to get good news. Hopefully, this will fund installation of the boardwalk into the wetlands area.

Eagles – There is no news as far as the eagles. They are still there.

Weed Warriors – Nothing new to report on this at this time.

New Business: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta asked a question about an abandoned house on his block that is getting into a state of disarray and who would be responsible for it. He said there are a lot of animals around this house. The EC advised that the Building Dept./Property Maintenance handles those matters.

Guillermo also said that he would like to organize a workshop for conservation for people in the church. He could also invite other churches so they could also have information about the environment. Steve advised Guillermo that if he could develop the idea and present it at a meeting, then maybe it is something the members of the GT and EC could work on and assist.

Steve asked Jin Ah Jong if she was interested in becoming an Associate member of the Environmental Commission. She agreed to become an Associate member. Jin Ah Jond said she would work on the Face Book page and start an Instagram for the EC. She will contact Joe D'Angeli to get the password and information on the account.

The next regular meeting will be July 27, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Green Team meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Peggy Conversano adjourning the meeting at 8:35 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca