

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
November 30, 2017**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 8:18 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 bulletin board. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Jin Ah Jong, Asai Maschang. Not Present: Joseph D'Angeli, Gloria Rivera, James Ruff. Guests Present: Daniele Fede. Commissioner John Anlian was also present.

Hearing of Citizens: None.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn, approving the minutes of the October 26, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills: No new bills were submitted.

Correspondence: Freshwater Wetlands Application Notification Letter and Flood Hazard Area Notification Letter dated November 7, 2017, from PSE&G.

Old Business:

Fishing Derby: The Fishing Derby was held on November 4. Nearly 50 kids attended with their families. 32 fish were caught. Everyone present had a great time. The EC really appreciated the assistance from the DPW, HFRA, Troop 3, Ambulance Corps., NJ Fish & Game. Steve sent a thank you to everyone. Mark and Leslie Olson and Jin Ah Jong handled registration of the adults who wanted to participate. Linda Quinn logged in the child fishing as well as what was caught. In addition to providing all the tackle and bait, the HFRA brought volunteers to assist the children. They also gave a fishing rod to all the children that participated. NJ Fish & Game provided a goodie bag for each child. The biggest fish of the day was a 29" carp. Children were excited to win prizes for their catch. Eight gift certificates for pizza were handed out. John Anlian took pictures throughout the day and will give them to Steve Quinn so they can be put on the website. Harry Menta will write up an article about the fishing derby.

Harry Menta also commented that the website is still a work in progress. Old items need to be taken down and fresh news added. If an event is going to stay on the website, it needs to be reworked. Old notices should be taken down. New items should constantly be added to keep the site fresh.

Nature Trail: John Anlian spoke to the contractor who advised him that RP is still on the list and he didn't forget about it. He will get to it. The trail should cost about \$16,000.00. Mark Olson said that maybe signs should be put in the other parks advising what parks are available in RP. None of the Community Gardeners knew where the Nature Preserve was. Members suggested putting a map on the website of where all the parks and Nature Preserve are located.

Steve Quinn said the Nature Preserve needs a trail so there is something to see. Mark wondered if the Nature Preserve might not be a good place to install a bat pole in the future. John Anlian said he did put in for grant money for the Nature Preserve and grants will be announced in December or January. Signage for the Nature Preserve is ready to be installed.

Green Business Seal: Steve said he thought the seal looked fine and Mark should tell Katelyn to proceed with this project.

New Business:

Winter Bird Count: January 6, 2018, was set as the date for the Winter Bird Count. All details will remain the same. Interested people should meet at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park and at 9:30 a.m. at the amphitheater at Overpeck County Park. A flyer will go out in the schools and it will be posted on the website and message board.

Earth Day/Green Fair: Mark Olson checked on the tide schedule and the date has been set for May 19, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The use of shuttle buses will be discussed at the next meeting. Daniele Fede said she should be able to get Bogota's bus for the event. A discussion was held on shows for the day. The day is very packed with all good shows and tables. There is a new show that looks very good; it is Jack Branagan's Earth Matters <http://www.jacksearthmatters.com/drop.htm>. The EC will review last year's schedule and then decide the schedule for the day.

Sweatshirts: At the Fishing Derby members discussed possibly getting sweatshirts since many of the EC activities are held when it is too cold to wear the golf shirt. Members thought it was a good idea and will discuss this at the next meeting. It was suggested that the EC might want to use the new Certified Sustainable Jersey logo.

Reappointments for 2018:

Regular Members: Jin Ah Jong, Leslie Olson

Alternate Members: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta Alt # 1, Asai Maschang Alt. #2

Associates: Joseph D'Angeli, Carolina Espin, Katelyn McGirk, Gloria Rivera

Meeting dates set for 2018:

JANUARY 25

FEBRUARY 22

MARCH 22

APRIL 26

MAY 24

JUNE 28

JULY 26 (IF NECESSARY)

AUGUST 23 (IF NECESSARY)

SEPTEMBER 27

OCTOBER 25

NOVEMBER 29 (FIFTH THURSDAY)

DECEMBER – no meeting

Steve Quinn advised that the Emerald Ash borer is invading RP. This makes the wood itself brittle. John Anlian said that at the Shade Tree convention, they suggested cutting all the ash trees now. Treatment needs to be done every two years but it also kills any insect feeding on the tree.

The next regular meeting will be **January 25, 2018**, at **7:00 p.m.**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Harry Menta adjourning the meeting at 9:40 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca