

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
July 26, 2018**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:04 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: Peggy Conversano, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Steve Quinn, Carolina Espin. Excused: Jinah Jong, Linda Quinn, Katelyn McGirk, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Asai Maschang, Joseph D'Angeli.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to approve the June 28, 2018, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

**Approval of Bills:** 1) PO#34619 processed to General Recreation, Inc., in the amount of \$3,680.00 for two benches and recycling container for the Nature Preserve that was voted and agreed upon by all members.

**Correspondence:** None received.

**Old Business:**

**Bergen County Public Meeting** – The Bergen County Parks Commission held a meeting on July 23 to discuss mitigation of the landfill areas within Teaneck Creek Conservancy, which is known as Area #1 in the Overpeck County Park, and also the change of use for Area #2, which is across from DeGraw Avenue, closer to RP. It is over 70 acres of natural land. The Parks Commission was proposing putting a dinosaur park in that area with an accompanying 500 car parking lot and bus parking lot along with gift shop and food concessions and restroom facilities and things like that.

There was quite a bit of unhappiness about the proposal and a number of presentations. Teaneck Creek was opposed; Bergen County Audubon was opposed. Steve Quinn spoke in opposition. The owner of the dinosaur park, which is called Field Station: Dinosaur described it as featuring exhibits that one could find in any natural history museum. Having worked in a natural history museum for 39 years designing and building exhibits, Steve said he really took exception to it because the previous week he had gone to Field Station: Dinosaurs and it is pure science fiction. The big rubber dinosaurs are not accurate at all.

If anyone is interested, go on Face Book for the Bergen County Audubon. They list the addresses for: 1) Adam Strobel, Bergen County Dept. of Parks, Bergen County Administration Building, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ 07601 2) NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, Mail Code 501-01, PO Box 412, 501 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0412 and 3) Bergen County Freeholders [www.co.bergen.nj.us/about-freeholders](http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/about-freeholders), (Comments on this matter accepted until August 7.)

On August 1 at 8:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Bergen County Freeholders over at One Bergen County Plaza that the Bergen Audubon will be attending as well as a number of other environmental groups in opposition to Field Station Dinosaurs.

**RP Nature Preserve** – There was an informal gathering of a few people, old members of the EC and people who grew up down in the Nature Preserve area, to discuss plans for the Nature Preserve. All of them agreed that the installation of the signs that we already have as well as the message board scheduled to arrive next week and the park benches and trash receptacles, should wait until after the August 1 approval of the funds for the Bergen County Open Space Trust. The EC will then move to put those things in. After August 1, John Anlian will be contacting the Principal of the high school to discuss the development of the Nature Trail and intended entrance at the high school and also discuss the hopes for parking at the high school as well.

Steve's assignment for the next couple of days is to draw a proposed plan for the trail and boardwalk through the nature preserve that would be used. Steve will send those to Boswell Engineering for development of the finished plan for the nature preserve and that, in turn, would be used by the contractor who would actually be doing that construction work and that bid would probably go out by next winter.

They talked about things like programming for the Nature Preserve and programming nature walks, bird walks, wildflower identification walks, programming for handicapped and they would like to get a few people on board for that project, one of them being Matt Graves, an Eagle Scout. He enjoys recognizing birds by sound. They talked about setting a RP Nature Preserve Association for the future to get the town's people involved. They also talked about ways of attracting people

through the Village Newsletter or the RP Mom's Face Book page, through the scouts, develop a Face Book page or anything else they might come up with they will do in concert with the Nature Preserve developing trail. They will do more things as the trail is developed.

They will probably organize another meeting to discuss an actual project schedule for the use of, hopefully, those county funds when they come through, hopefully in September. Anyone on the EC who would like to join that meeting is welcome to attend. Members should let Steve Quinn know if they are interested and he will make sure they are invited to any meetings

**Nature Trail - Message Board** – The board will be delivered on August 1. The two benches and trash receptacle were ordered.

**Bird Count** – The winter count is scheduled for December 8, 2018. The flyer will mention that the bird count will be cancelled in the event of rain. It will start at 7:00 a.m. at McGowan Park and 9:30 a.m. at Overpeck Park.

**Green Business** – Jin Ah Jong did a seal for the Green Business program. Mark Olson, Steve Quinn, Harry Menta and Katelyn McGirk need to get together to work on criteria for a green business certification. August 7 was set as the tentative date to meet to discuss this. They will meet at Steve Quinn's house at 7:00 p.m.

**Newsletter** – (Deadlines – August 17 & October 19) The next deadline is August 17. Harry Menta contacted Joe D'Angeli to see if he could get a flyer for the bat walk scheduled for August 26. Joe D'Angeli volunteered to do a bat article that will also be put on Face Book. Steve will reach out to Joe for info on the bat walk. The Pool Commission had no problem with the parking lot being used that night.

Leslie Olson said she will rework the grass article to put in the newsletter. Steve will also reach out to Sergio to ask about dates for Earth Day and the Fishing Derby. If he cannot get in touch with Sergio in time, Steve will write something else for the newsletter. Steve said he will write something up about the fishing derby as well as mention the bird count scheduled for December 8,

**Earth Day/Green Fair** – Steve Quinn will tell Sergio what day is best for the tides. It appears that May 11 looks like the best date so far. High tide is 3:30 p.m. The EC thought that maybe the boat rides could start a little later and run until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. Barbara DeLuca will contact the Riverkeeper to see if that works for them.

**Fishing Derby** – Mark Olson checked the tides and it looks like October 13 would be the best day. Steve will check with Sergio but said Steve will not be available on that day. Members need to let the EC know if they can commit to October 13 since Steve and Linda are unavailable.

#### **New Business:**

Harry Menta said he is writing an article on the scoop on poop for the website. It could also be put in a newsletter.

The next regular meeting will be August 23, 2018 (if needed), at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:35 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca