

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. (THIRD THURSDAY)

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 25, 2018**

Chairperson Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:05 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: Jin Ah Jong, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. Excused: Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta, Carolina Espin, Katelyn McGirk and Gloria Rivera. Absent: Asai Maschang, Joseph D'Angeli.

Hearing of Citizens:

A motion was made by and seconded by Leslie Olson and seconded by Mark Olson to approve the September 27, 2018, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion. Steve Quinn made a special note that he appreciated the coverage at the September meeting since he was unable to attend it.

Approval of Bills: 1) \$102.66 Green Business Window Decals PO#35223

Correspondence: 1) Memo from Board of Adjustment dated 9/28/18 Re: Case #1536 53 Bergen Turnpike application to construct a 45 residential multiple dwelling building

2) Memo from Board of Adjustment dated 10/2/18 Re: Case #1537 245-249 Teaneck Road application to convert a business use to six residential multiple dwelling building

3) Freshwater Wetlands Application dated 10/18/18 - Notice to Neighboring Landowners Re: Challenger 60, LLC

1) There was a short discussion on the project planned for 53 Bergen Tpke. The EC did respond in opposition to this case. Mark Olson had an update on this matter. Mark attended the Commissioner's caucus meeting after they received the EC letter. They also received a letter from Matt McDonald, the CSO consultant. The Commissioners unanimously voted to begin the process of pursuing the purchase of this property. They are scheduling talks to start the process.

2) Mark Olson said that he thinks it is a good idea that when plans come in that a member view the plans. Mark said he would go to Francine Orovitz, Zoning Board Secretary (located at 50 Main Street) to see the plans. Mark said he doesn't know enough about the application to have an opinion yet. Mark said he can't make any decision on impervious coverage since it is not part of the zoning yet. He will send out an email after he views the plans.

3) Steve Quinn said he has gone by that property. He doesn't know that there are any existing viable wetlands on this property. He doesn't know that the EC would have a problem with this application.

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve – There was an award presentation on October 1 by County Executive Tedesco. Commissioner Anlian was there along with members of the EC, GT, Mayor Fosdick and Commissioners Poli and MacNeill, high school principal Eric Koenig, Freeholder Tracey Zur. It was a nice event that was well attended. We now have a matching \$200,000.00 grant to work with in developing a nature trail and boardwalk. Tomorrow afternoon Commissioner Anlian and Steve Quinn will be meeting with Boswell Engineering to kick off the wetland's application, which can take as much as six months in building the boardwalk through the wetlands.

We do have a preliminary drawing of what we hope the trail will look like. Steve showed the drawing to members. He said they hope to create a loop that will originate near the high school end and create parking for people at the trail head and then continue out across the wetland and then a trail of crushed stone or stone dust and gravel out on what used to be the DOT property with boardwalk crossing and then connecting with the woodland and then back through the woodlands as well as linking up with the bicycle and pedestrian path in Veteran's Park.

Nature Trail - Message Board – The board was delivered. The two benches and trash receptacle were ordered but the EC does not know if they were delivered yet. Steve will check with the DPW to see if they received the two benches and trash receptacle yet. They will be stored by the DPW until we get farther along with the trail and boardwalk.

Bird Count – The winter count is scheduled for December 8, 2018. The flyer mentions 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. It will be in the newsletter as well as on the message board and website.

Green Business – The awarding of the seals occurred at the street fair. Gina the Baker and Art Mora received their seals at the street fair and they have put them on their windows. Leslie Olson is working on two other prospects to get a green business seal. The third business that actually received the first award needs the seal to be delivered to them. Katelyn McGirk has the seals and Leslie has asked her for them so she can bring is to the business. Leslie said there are two other prospects she is working with, Chocolates With Love and the Fire Pit on Mt. Vernon street. The Fire Pit is very sustainable. They do not give out straws unless you ask them for one. They serve on aluminum trays. They do not use aluminum packaging. They do not use Styrofoam for take-out. They use paper.

Mark Olson said that the HUB got a grant to do the Styrofoam collection. One of their suggestions was that a Styrofoam-free certificate be made. It will probably be a HUB certificate so a business like Fire Pit could get that certificate as well. In RP, the GT would be doing the legwork for this program to find some businesses. Leslie said she will send another email to Katelyn to request a seal.

Leslie wanted all members to know that anyone can interview a business to see if they qualify for the Green Business Seal. It is on the website. Mark asked if the EC wanted to do anything for the businesses that participate in the plastic bag recycling program by allowing us to put a collection container at their business. Mark said it is something to think about.

Steve said there is a BYOB (Bring Your Own Shopping Bag) signs for businesses that he would like the EC to start. Jinah Jong will try to come up with a sign that RP could use.

Newsletter – (Deadlines – February 15) The next deadline is February 15. Leslie Olson told members to give some thought to some things the EC wants to call attention to. The delivery date for the next newsletter will be December. Articles sent in included: bird watch scheduled for December 8; Open Space Trust Fund Grant for the nature preserve; Green Business Seal (Katelyn will write this).

Styrofoam Collection – The collection was held on October 20, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the DPW. There were a few people that brought a lot in. Since this was the first collection, it wasn't too big. People are still learning about the collections. They will be held every three months in two different locations. Mark will get the schedule to Harry as soon as it is made. Mark put an article about it in the newsletter with a link to the schedule.

BYOB – Tenafly stores have signs in them saying "BYOB", which means Bring Your Own *Shopping* Bag. The EC thinks that's a good idea and Katelyn McGirk and Jinah Jong were sent a picture of the sign to see if they wanted to come up with something for the EC.

Earth Day/Green Fair – It appears that May 11 looks like the best date for Earth Day. 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. The Riverkeeper has gotten back and May 11 is good for him. He will bring the boat at 2:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. The day will run from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Letters will now be sent to everyone. Steve will review the list of shows to decide which ones to have this year.

New Business: Steve Quinn and John Anlian will meet with Boswell Engineering to kick off the wetland's application.

The next regular meeting will be November 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. (one week early due to Thanksgiving).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta adjourning the meeting at 7:35 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca