

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 28, 2019**

Chairman 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: Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. Excused: Jin Ah Jong, Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta, Joseph D'Angeli, Carolina Espin, Katelyn McGirk.

Hearing of Citizens: No one was present.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn to approve the February 28, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills: None this month.

Correspondence:

- 1) Email from Hackensack Riverkeeper – EarthFest Overpeck 2019, Sunday May 19 – Register Now. **Steve Quinn will send an email out to members to see who is available to spend some hours manning a table. The day will be split into blocks so as not to make it a burden to any one member. The EC will register for a table.**
- 2) Email from Civics Teacher, Michael Savino, dated 3/7/19 Re: Green School/School District and Municipality Initiatives. **Mark Olson responded to the letter. He is going to speak to the class and invited Steve Quinn to speak as well. Steve said he would like to see an Environmental or Ecology Club start up again at the high school.**
- 3) Memo dated 3/7/19 from Zoning Board Re: Case #1542 – 185 Industrial Avenue – application to increase number of businesses from five to 11. The hearing was March 19.
- 4) Memo dated 3/8/19 from Zoning Board Re: Case #1520 – 9-13 Lincoln Avenue – discuss changes to building material. **The EC will ask what the building material is to see if it is of concern to the EC.**
- 5) Letter dated 3/11/19 from Mayor Fosdick Re: North Bergen Gas Fired Generating Plant. **Mayor Fosdick advised that there has been a delay in meeting with the DEP to discuss this matter. The EC will send a letter to the Mayor and BOC saying it is regrettable that the BOC got their information from a source other than the RPEC and the EC's reasons for urging them to issue a resolution are just three reasons and they can be backed up quite easily and they are: 1 – This will already compromise an air quality that has already been rated low for this area. It will add to an already compromised air quality condition. 2 – This will occupy 15-16 acres of viable wetlands on the flood plain and based on recent storm events, building on the flood plain in this area is not a good idea. 3 – All of the electricity and power generated by this mega, gas-powered plant is going to NY City. All of those three reasons clearly do not benefit the people of RP so the EC does not see how the BOC could think this is a good thing.**

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, that the EC send a response to Mayor Fosdick's letter respectfully citing the reasons the EC urges them to write the resolution. All were in favor of the motion. Steve Quinn will write the letter and circulate it before it goes out.

- 6) Invitation from GT to 3/31/19 (@ 3:30 p.m. at library) public meeting to discuss creating Master Plan for Public Art. **All members are urged to attend.**
- 7) copy of Resolution appointing Tammy Laverty as Associate member

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – Steve Quinn and John Anlian did go down to the Nature Preserve and laid out another portion of the nature trail and marked it. They have done a little over half the trail.

Green Business – Katelyn McGirk is moving out of state for a job opportunity in the next few weeks. She will be unable to head up the Green Business team. The EC needs to discuss how to move forward. A suggestion was made to ask Mr. Savino if he and his students would like to get involved in this. Steve and Mark will talk to him next week when they go to speak with the class. Leslie Olson said she stopped at the new Coach's Corner store to speak with him and he is interested. She will go back there.

Newsletter – The next deadline is May 17. Articles to be written:

- Katelyn McGirk – Green Business Program
- BYOB – if the signs are ready, an article should be written
- Guillermo Lopez-Acosta – Solar Panels

- Steve Quinn will come up with something on nature

BYOB – Tenafly stores have signs in them saying “BYOB”, which means Bring Your Own *Shopping* Bag. Jinah Jong was sent a picture of the sign to see if she could come up with a design for the EC. She said she will hopefully have it for next meeting. Janet Harris wants to help out on implementation of this. She is in charge of collecting the plastic bags for recycling.

Earth Day/Green Fair – May 11 is scheduled for Earth Day. High tide is 3:30 p.m. The Riverkeeper 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. Earth Day/Green Fair – scheduled for May 11 – high tide is 3:30 p.m. Riverkeeper is available. New responses: Flat Rock Brook (need electricity), RP/LF Girl Scouts, Cub Scout Pack 4, will all host a table. The face painter still has not responded. The EC will make one more attempt to contact her.

The Shade Tree Commission will have its Arbor Day Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. It should last about thirty minutes.

Steve Quinn said the displays are getting old and he would like members to think of some new displays that could be made. Steve will work on a display for the reusable straws that will be given away. There will be a display on what Styrofoam can be recycled. Linda Quinn suggested that now that the EC has the canopy and the tablecloth, it would be a good idea to get a grid so the display doesn't fall over from the wind.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson to purchase a grid for the EC displays. All were in favor of the motion.

Mark Olson said he is going to the Commissioner's meeting next week. He has worked on the wording for the sign and will bring it with him to the meeting. Steve said a permanent sign would be wonderful but Mark doesn't think it would be done in time for Earth Day. He suggests the A-frame sign. He will find out what is needed to display the sign next week.

One vendor requested alternate directions in case the tracks are blocked by the train again. Each vendor will be sent directions to enter through Bogota. The EC will work on directions and send an email to all the vendors so they have an alternate way to enter in case the tracks are blocked.

A note will be added to the flyer to tell people to bring their plastic bags and Styrofoam to Earth Day because there will be collection containers available.

As far as the CSO signs, there was an email from Nancy Kemple of the DEP. Steve and Mark attended a CSO meeting where Nancy was there as well as the folks from Mott, McDonald and they advised that the EC could have the fishing derby as long as there was a fact sheet on the table describing the water conditions. She also said that a container of hand sanitizer should be available and advising people to use it to keep their hands clean. Steve spoke to Commissioner Anlian about this and he did not feel it was necessary to contact the Village attorney.

Leslie Olson contacted Eric Koenig about getting a small bus. She is waiting to hear back about Board approval. She said the route will only be three stops in RP – Grant School, Central Avenue and in front of the Marlboro House if they can get permission for that. She will contact Dominick Frontera, President of the Co-op Association to see if that would be ok. Commissioner Anlian suggested that signs be put up at each bus stop so people know it is a pick-up location for Earth Day.

Steve Quinn said he will contact the DPW to ask them to send out the banner for updating.

thecrayoninitiative.org – The Crayon Initiative will be worked into the annual recycling day scheduled for November 15. The EC never received the start-up boxes and information so the organizers are sending it out again. Dyan Thiemann said she would gladly work on this with the EC. Janet Harris from the GT is interested in this as well.

New Business:

Steve and Mark will discuss starting an Environmental or Ecology Club at the high school when they visit the school next week. Eric Koenig originally started this at the high school but it has not been active.

There was approval for an outdoor digital billboard from the Zoning Board in RP. Commissioner Anlian said the BOC has appealed the decision to the Judge in the Superior Court so it is not necessary for the EC to send a letter at this time. If it gets sent back to the ZB, that is when the EC should be sending a letter as well as making an appearance.

There have been loud outdoor loud-speaker announcements at RP schools. Members have heard the announcements from both Roosevelt School and the high school. The EC wonders if any of the other RP schools are doing the same. The announcements are for things inside the school but they are made outside as well.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn to send a letter to the Board of Education about how the announcements are interfering with the quality of life in the neighborhood. All were in favor of the motion.

There are newer water fountains that can fill taller water bottles and show how many plastic bottles have been saved by refilling a reusable water bottle at the fountain. Steve asked if the EC would like to propose that when a fountain needs replacing, this type of water fountain be used. Mark Olson said he will handle this. He will find out the cost and put together a proposal to send to the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners.

Milkweed plants/seeds – The EC wants to use these as a give-away at Earth Day/Green Fair to encourage people to plant milkweed to help the Monarch butterfly migration as they pass through RP. Steve will contact Don Torino and see if Wild Birds Unlimited could provide a source. Steve said he and Linda have a ton of milkweed seeds that they could pack up to give away as well.

Members urged to attend May 18 Environmental Training in Ridgefield – must register in advance. Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and Steve said they will try to attend since it is so close.

There are 2019 AARP Community Challenge grants available. Information is available at aarp.org/livable if anyone is interested in checking it out. Perhaps the water fountains would be something that could be started with a grant of this type.

The next regular meeting will be April 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Mark Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca