

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
April 25, 2019**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Asai Maschang, Tammy Laverty. Excused: Jin Ah Jong, Harry Menta, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Carolina Espin. Commissioner Anlian was also present.

**Hearing of Citizens:** No one was present.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to approve the March 28, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of Bills:** None this month.

**Correspondence:**

- 1) Letter dated 4/8/19 from Mosquito Control Division containing information about the Bergen County Mosquito Control Division's operations. **Steve Quinn informed members that they will be spraying areas of RP this year as West Nile was here last season. If there is an area you don't want sprayed, you can notify the Mosquito Commission.**
- 2) Copy of Zoning Board's April 16, 2019, agenda
- 3) Email dated 4/9/19 from Craig Scott suggesting a food truck with healthier food choices at Earth Day. **Steve responded to him and he wasn't aware that all profits go to the local Troop 3 Boy Scouts so he has no problems.**
- 4) Email dated 4/16/19 from Mosquito Control Division correcting a web address in their previous email
- 5) White-tailed Deer event Wednesday June 5, 2019, from 7 pm - 9 pm at Englewood Courtroom, 73 S. Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ. **Steve said it would be a good idea for members to attend if possible. He was planning to go.**

**Old Business:**

**RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail** – John Anlian said they have introduced the budget so the money is set to move ahead. He is meeting with Mike Kelly to confirm a few things and then set up a time for Steve Quinn and himself to meet with Frank Rossi to go over plans (probably in two weeks). He said he wanted to get moving on this.

John Anlian and Steve Quinn did go down to the Nature Preserve and laid out another portion of the nature trail and marked it. John Anlian said when they meet with Frank Rossi, they will lay out the trail with him.

**Green Business** – Leslie Olson said the Coach's Corner store is now a Green Business and will soon be a Styrofoam Free Business as well. Leslie will also head up the program for now since Katelyn McGirk is moving out of state. There are currently four Green Businesses: Gina the Baker, Fire Pit, Consolidated Packaging and Art Mora. There are three Styrofoam Free Stores: Fire Pit, Jarret's Waffle Wagon and Coach's Corner.

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

- Leslie Olson – Green Business Program
- Steve Quinn – BYOB
- Guillermo Lopez-Acosta – Solar Panels
- Steve Quinn will come up with something on nature

**BYOB** – Jin Ah Jong came up with two designs for the BYOB signs. The EC voted and selected their preference. Jin Ah will be asked to make a slight change and bring up the RPEC line. Copies will then be made and laminated.

**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. New responses: Fred Meyers, BCUA; Wanda Canoe Club; Face painter. Linda Quinn ordered the grids for the EC table. New displays need to be made for Earth Day/Green Fair. A display has to be made for the reusable straw give-away. Alternate directions to Earth Day will be emailed to all participants. The wording and production for alternate Railroad Crossing sign is ready and will be made into a sign. Steve has milkweed seeds that are already cold treated so they can be planted right away.

Leslie Olson spoke to Eric Koenig about getting a small bus but has not heard back from him yet. There will be three stops: 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue, 265 Main Street, in front of the Marlboro House and 104 Henry Street, Grant School. The bus will run from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Steve will send an email to all members to find out who is working Earth Day and how long so tables are covered from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

thecrayoninitiative.org boxes were distributed to the library, municipal building and schools. Flyers went out in the schools and it is advertised on the website. The preschools will be asked if they would like a box so they can participate.

Mark Olson will research the new water fountains and see where it might be possible to install them as water fountains are replaced.

Members are urged to attend May 18 Environmental Training in Ridgefield. Members must register first. Steve said he is going to try to attend.

Mark Olson accepted the invitation to visit Mr. Savino's class. The seventh-grade class was proposing that we pursue the solar energy action under SJ. They invited him to see a presentation that they had done. He said it was very impressive. John Anlian asked if this was something the Commissioners should see and Mark said that it was that good that the Commissioners should invite them to a meeting to show it.

Steve Quinn said that he needs to speak to Principal Eric Koenig about nurturing an Ecology and/or Environmental Club at the high school, especially with the Nature Preserve being easily accessible it is important. Steve thinks the EC should write to Eric Koenig and volunteer to assist with this club.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to write to Eric Koenig encouraging the high school to form an ecology and/or environmental club and for the EC to be available anyway we can to assist them. All were in favor of the motion.

Asai Maschang said she would run the club if they wanted her to.

Steve said that the EC needs to write a fact sheet for the HRFA table for Earth Day. The DEP advised that a fact sheet informing the public of the CSO conditions must be available as well as hand sanitizer for participants to use. Linda Quinn said she will get hand sanitizer.

The Shade Tree Commission is ready for Arbor Day. They will start at 9:00 a.m.

John Anlian said that he and the Mayor went to Trenton to meet with the DEP regarding the large power plant planned for North Bergen. They met with seven people at the DEP, two from land use and three from air quality as well as people from one other department. John Anlian said it was a very informative meeting.

Plans are on hold because the applicant has come up with some new technology to make it cleaner. They were told there will be no new encroachment on the Meadowlands because it will be using the same rights of way they are using now. They said they are here to protect the public and will not approve anything that does not meet the standards of the Clean Air Act. They said the plant will be similar to the Bayonne plant and whatever pollution is generated will not be that much different from any other plant in NJ. It is probably going to be the equivalent of what is generated from 10,000 homes. Anyone who comes in will be reviewed the same way. If it meets the air quality regulations, it will pass. If it does not, it will not be passed.

Steve Quinn said just because it is a state agency does not mean it is the right decision. 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 Mark Olson that the EC write a letter to the BOC outlining its reasons why it does not think the North Bergen Power Plant is a good idea. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve will write the letter and circulate it before he sends it out.

Mark Olson said that the Styrofoam container was delivered today. The BOC put a condition on getting this container and it is that someone from the GT or EC has to be there to help educate the public on what is acceptable during the early stages of collection. Anyone that wants to do it should get in touch with Mark Olson.

**New Business:**

Shop-Rite Earth Day Challenge – Shop-Rite offers free supplies for a community clean-up. Requests need to be phoned in prior to April 1. This was put on the reminder list for January of 2020 so the EC can participate next year.

White-tailed Deer event scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2019, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Englewood Courtroom, 73 S. Van Brunt Street in Englewood. Steve is planning to attend this. Flyers were given to all members. It would be a good idea for anyone available to also attend.

EarthFest in Overpeck Park is scheduled for Sunday, May 19 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. It is a few busy weekends for members of the EC but it is a good event to participate in if members are available to cover the table. Tammy Laverty said she would do some morning hours if needed. Gloria Rivera and Pepita Soto will be asked if they can man the tables at all that day. An email will be sent to all members to see who might be available before responding to the invitation.

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

The next regular meeting will be May 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 8:05 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca