

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 23, 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: Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Tammy Laverty. Excused: Jin Ah Jong, Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli.

Hearing of Citizens: No one was present.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to approve the April 25, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills:

- PO 37596 \$804.18 - Steve Quinn – reimbursement for Earth Day/worms/face painter, grids for displays, misc.
- PO 37667 \$ 75.00 - Reidel Sign Co. – Update banner for Earth Day
- PO 37821 \$175.02 – Office Works, Inc. – Earth Day signage/A-Frames & Arrows
- PO 37841 \$ 95.00 – Reidel Sign Co. – Update banner for Earth Day (balance)

Correspondence:

- Zoning Board memo Re: Case # 1543 Tumino's Properties Use Variance to construct a parking lot at East Winant Avenue. Hearing is scheduled for May 21, 2019. Comments due no later than May 10. **Steve Quinn and Joe D'Angelis attended the hearing. At the request of the applicant, the case was carried over to 6/18. Tumino Towing's application for a use variance is a bit of a concern as, the property in question is presently residential and, if developed as a parking lot for Tumino's big towing trucks with the in and out traffic using the lot and it's appearance, would detract from the surrounding well-kept homes and possibly lead to the deterioration of the residential character of the neighborhood. Tumino's Towing does not, presently, keep its property maintained in an attractive manner and often parks its trucks over the sidewalks. They also deposit the unsightly wrecked vehicles that they tow in their parking lot for long periods of time. Tumino Towing's current property parking lot is hardly an asset to the surrounding neighborhood, which predates Tumino's, so why would we expect Tumino's to maintain a second parking lot any differently? Tumino's wants to build this parking lot next to delineated wetlands. The water level is very high near these residential homes. Covering this property with a paved parking lot will exacerbate an already bad situation during storms and times of flooding. Based on Tumino's maintenance of their present parking lot, which is riddled with wrecked cars and trucks, the Zoning Board would be well advised to tell Mr. Tumino to clean up his lot and they would have plenty more parking space on his existing lot. Also, the original approval was under the stipulation that no wrecked vehicles would be stored on the property. There is an aerial photograph of the Tumino property from today and it is packed with wrecked vehicles and it impacts on the surrounding residential community. Anyone from the EC or GT who feels compelled is encouraged to attend. The function of the Zoning Board should be to protect the residential character and property value of RP citizens. Steve Quinn will oppose this development.**
- Zoning Board memo Re: Case # 1544 M&J 730, LLC for a Use Variance to increase the number of businesses at 1 Teaneck Road from four to five. Hearing is scheduled for June 18, 2019. Comments due no later than May 30. **Steve took a look at this building and it appears it can easily support another business.**
- Email dated 5/1/19 from Mabel Farinango Re: possible Earth Day vendor
- Citizen Leadership Form from Paola Bettelli Re: interest in joining Environmental Commission. **She was invited to attend tonight but evidently couldn't make it.**
- Email dated 5/9/19 from Sharon Pingitore Re: Garden Club (referred to Green Team)
Leslie Olson said that the current director of the Senior Center is basically an entity that just resides in that municipal that space. She has been told several times that what she needs to do is go to her boss and have her boss send a letter to the BOC requesting permission to put in a raised planting bed. If they approve it, it can happen. If they don't approve it, it can't happen. It's pretty straight forward.
- Email dated 5/12/19 from Commissioner Anlian thanking the EC for coordinating and working on Earth Day
- Letter dated 5/13/19 from Hackensack Riverkeeper thanking the EC for the donation toward use of their boat
- Letter dated 5/20/19 from CEM Associates, Re: Application for a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #5, a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit, and Major Modification of a NJDEP Waterfront Development Individual Permit: Overpeck Lake Shoreline Stabilization

This is a notification from CME Associates notifying the Village of RP that they intend to excavate the shoreline of Overpeck Creek and remove landfill waste from the water's edge and placement of stabilization material along the resulting shoreline to prevent erosion of the capped landfill. This is evidently to widen the Overpeck Creek to accommodate additional racing lanes for crew racing in Overpeck Park. There is a diagram showing the extent of the widening. They are removing land in RP and Palisades Park. This is to create a straight shoreline. Steve Quinn thinks it is of interest what they intend to do with the hazardous waste and where they intend to dump it. Steve will go to the Clerk's Office on Friday to see if he can review the application package. Steve thinks the EC should be concerned and he will make an effort to see the plans. The EC only has 15 days from the date of the letter to submit written comments. The letter is dated May 20 so there are only about 10 days left.

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – John Anlian and Steve Quinn met with a representative of Boswell Engineering. They are engaged to do all of the surveying, permit applications and the finish plan for the nature trail and boardwalk. They met with the representative of Boswell at the site. The next step is Steve is to meet with someone from Boswell Engineering who will be bringing a GPS marker and they will mark the exact location of the nature preserve trail with GPS. John Anlian has contacted the surveyors, Jobe & Jobe, to see how much has already been done. Boswell will start on any that has not been done. We seem to be moving on but Commissioner Anlian is very busy and could use help.

Steve will be having a meeting with the RP Nature Association with the intent of trying to provide support and help to keep the project moving. We are on a deadline to use the funds. There is only two years to use the funds from the county and 10 months have already gone by since we were awarded the money. That leaves us with a tight schedule to complete the project.

Green Business – Leslie Olson talked to two more business, Baked Meringue and Chocolates with Love. She will go back to register them when Chocolates with Love reopens on June 28. She has talked to Rising Sun and will register them on the NJ site. She has learned that when she does this with businesses, it is time consuming and it works better if she schedules a time with them because then it gets done. Leslie does have a questionnaire that she can leave with them and then go back and pick it up. It does work much better if she works face-to-face with the businesses.

Steve said as fair as the BYOB for the businesses, maybe the EC should have a weekend or a specific day for several people to go from store to store and ask them to put up the sign. Members could also leave some information on the Green Business program as well. Members thought it would be a good idea to do this prior to the Arts Festival on June 15. Members will meet in front of Art Mora on Main Street at 4:00 p.m. to get this done.

As far as the Arts Fest, the Arts Association is making up a little program and selling ad space. A full-page ad is \$50 if the EC is interested.

Steve Quinn made a motion, which was seconded by Leslie Olson, that the EC takes out a full-page ad for \$50.00 in the Summer Arts Fest program. All were in favor of the motion.

Newsletter – The next deadline is August 16. Articles to be written:

- Leslie Olson – Green Business Program
- Steve Quinn – BYOB

BYOB – Jinah Jong made the changes to the sign. Copies will be made and laminated. Members will meet on June 15, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in front of Art Mora to hang the signs. This sign will be used when new reusable bags are ordered for next year's Earth Day celebration for people who sign a pledge to use a reusable bag.

Earth Day/Green Fair – The day turned out great. The weather was great and attendance increased as the day went on. There were many people fishing and catching fish throughout the day. The boat rides were all full. There was no life ring or tossing rope on the dock. Steve will look into buying a new life ring and tossing rope for the dock and some life vests to have on hand for kids that are fishing. The shows were enjoyed by all. It was nice that some were able to be held outdoors.

Mark Olson is working on the new water fountains. He has spoken to Commissioner Kohles. She was not aware that most water fountains in the park do not work. She is fine with replacing with the new water fountains that refill a water bottle with filtered water while educating on how many plastic bottles it saves.

Steve Quinn said that Mark Olson arranged for Steve and Mark to speak to the Civics Class about the EC and GT. Steve said it was a great class, great questions. Mr. Savino spoke about possibility of starting an Ecology Club or Conservation Club. Steve will follow up with a letter to Eric Koenig. Mark said they are coming to the May 28 Commissioner's meeting. Steve said it would be great for anyone available to also attend to show support for the kids.

May 28 is also the date for a presentation here in the municipal building on sewage system in RP. It is very important for people to attend. Mott, MacDonald will present various options.

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 previously given to all members. It would be a good idea for anyone available to also attend.

New Business:

Steve Quinn read a Resolution Encouraging the Use of Reusable, Cloth Type, Shopping Bags as Opposed to Single Use Plastic Bags that was distributed to all members via email prior to the meeting. He would like to ask the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to pass this Resolution as an important first step in educating our residents on the importance of eliminating single use plastic bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags. It is a good start to eventually banning single use plastic bags.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson that the EC send the Board of Commissioners the proposal to adopt this resolution. All were in favor of this motion.

The next regular meeting will be June 27, 2019, 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 7:55 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca