

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
January 23, 2020**

Vice-Chair Leslie Olson 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: Tammy Lavery, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn. Excused: Stephen Quinn, Asai Maschang, Jin Ah Jong, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Harry Menta, Peggy Conversano, Joseph D'Angeli, Carolina Espin.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present. Nicole Kachadorian was a guest.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to approve the November 21, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of Bills:**

- PO 40348 - \$ 600.00 – ANJEC – Dues for 2020
- PO 40463 - \$1,008.00 – Everything Branded – 2,000 stainless steel straws & brush
- PO 40627 - \$ 700.00 – Mark Rust – Music for Earth Day 6/13/20

**Correspondence:**

- Letter dated 11/26/19 from U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Re: Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment (EA) Teterboro Airport (TEB) Area Navigations (RNAV) Global Positioning System (GPS) Runway (RWY) 19 Offset Arrival Procedure
- Letter dated 12/20/19 from U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Re: Draft Environmental Assessment, RNAV (GPS) RWY 19 Offset Procedure, Teterboro Airport, Teterboro, NJ. Linda Quinn mentioned that the Bergen County Audubon is very concerned about this because the area is grassland where there are a lot of endangered or unusual species there. Also, that part of Teterboro was a buffer during Hurricane Sandy and the surrounding areas would have been much worse had this been paved over. No response has been received yet.
- OPRA Request for 1 Station Plaza Re: environmental site assessment of this property and request information regarding hazardous materials or petroleum including tanks on record with building, health, environmental & FD.
- Email dated 1/6/20 from Maria Begg-Roberson, Councilwoman in Rutherford, wanting to find out about the EC and hopefully attend a meeting.
- Appointments and Oath of Office
- Earth Day contract from Mark Rust

**Old Business:**

**RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail** – Steve Quinn has a meeting tomorrow at Boswell to continue their work on the implementation of the trail. Things are not going along as quickly as he would like because the grant needs to be completed by October 2020 so Steve has been trying to keep things moving. The trail has to be done during the summer months. Steve will see where they stand and emphasize that the two-year deadline ends in October so they need to move quickly. The grant was to the Village so Commissioner Anlian is the liaison for the EC.

At last night's PAC meeting, Flo Muller mentioned that the STC was getting a seedling of a 400-year-old oak tree and were looking for the appropriate place to plant it. The EC suggested that maybe the STC should have a special meeting and invite people to suggest where to plant it. This would be good to invite the high school EC to participate in. The meeting could be advertised on the Village message board and the website. Linda Quinn will speak to the STC.

**Green Business** – There are two new businesses opening up in RP. One is the restaurant that used to be Bellucci's, it will now be Mama Lupe's and the deli on the other side of Rte. 46 on Ridgefield Avenue will be Carlo's Market. They are potentially, in talking to the son, looking pretty green on first glance. DePalma's is also supposed to open shortly.

**Newsletter** – The next deadline is February 14. Members should think of articles for the next newsletter. Articles to be written:

- Leslie Olson – Green Business Program
- Steve Quinn – BYOB
- Earth Day – scheduled 6/13/20 Harry Menta will be asked to write something up.

- iNaturalist – Tammy Laverty will write up an article on how to use this app

**BYOB** – Signs are ready to be hung. Leslie has taken a step back from trying to get the businesses to use them and doing some sort of education strategy plan within the village to promote the concept and idea. Her initial thought was to take the logo and add a couple of bullets to it and then put some sort of one-page paper together and then go talk to the high school EC. She also plans to approach Dr. Bender about running some sort of program at each of the grammar schools in town as well and then launch the BYOB program. She thinks the EC needs to communicate that it is doing it before it will be successful. She will bring some bags with her to the high school when she talks to them. Some of the stores are switching to paper and reusable bags. She wants to talk with the businesses that use the single-use bags. The education aspect will be the most important part of it. There is no reason these can't eventually be posted in the parks to remind people to bring their own bag and take their own trash with them.

**Winter Bird Count** – The count was held December 7. It was a very good morning. There were only three participants besides the members. It was not as cold as past counts. The results are attached to the minutes. The only problem at Overpeck Park was it coincided with the barking running marathon so there was a lot of chaos with barking dogs, balloons and tents. They did not know there was an event held that day. McGowan Park was great. The tallies were turned into the Audubon Society.

**Earth Day 2020** – Earth Day is scheduled for June 13. On June 13, high tide is 4:40 p.m., low is 10:30 a.m. which means fishing would be good all afternoon. Mark Rust is available and has sent his contract. The Riverkeeper will be there with their boat. Mark Olson thought it would be a good idea to get Wanda Canoe involved with their canoes. They are invited every year to bring their canoes so it is just a matter of them being available. The Riverkeeper used to bring canoes as well so they will be asked to bring some canoes as well if possible because they have the vests and everything needed for safe canoeing. Linda Quinn will check to see if Arbor Day will be held at the same time. She thinks they may want to hold it earlier than June but she will let the EC know after their meeting.

Daniele Fede said that Bogota will be giving out Sandy Recovery trees on April 25 at Palisade and Main by Valley National Bank. Anyone from the state can pick them up.

### **New Business:**

**Community Clean-Up Day** – Shop-Rite was very happy the EC was enthusiastic about the clean-up day but they are not ready and said to call back the second week in February. The EC will work with the Girls Scouts, Nicole Kachadorian was there for the Girl Scouts. The GT plans to start an Adopt-A-Park program and this could be a good opportunity to kick-off the program. The EC said Riverfront Park would probably be a good place to do a clean-up to make it more attractive for the Earth Day Celebration. It was suggested that multiple parks and multiple teams could be organized prior to Earth Day. Ferris Park would be great to clean-up because it's on the other side of town that is frequently ignored and the EC recommends using Ferris as one of the parks for the Adopt-A-Park program. The areas cleaned do not have to be parks either. The business district could also be cleaned as well.

Since the EC won't know how many people will be available until the actual date, advertising of the event needs to begin. The Girl Scouts could do a clean-up and then show all they did at their Earth Day table while allowing their scouts to enjoy all the various activities and shows taking place at the Earth Day. The EC thinks that the end of April, early May – before it gets too hot – would be a good time to do the clean-up. Advertisement on social media and the community message board needs to start. The schools also need to be contacted so they get involved.

Nicole will work on getting a count of how many people will help with the scouts so the clean-up can be better organized. Other groups can become involved so it really becomes a community-wide event.

Tammy Laverty said at her Master Gardener's meeting they had the Monrovia Garden representative there. He said he usually has a lot of overstock of plants. He is willing to give them to the group if towns have a gardening group. Tammy took down the contact info so if anyone is interested, she can give them the info.

Mark Olson said he talked to Steve Quinn to put together a plan where the EC sponsors solar panel awareness to educate people how it works. They would bring in representatives to explain there are lease arrangements, put on building, explain the options. They would bring in two or three reputable companies once they feel confident recommending them. The purpose is not to sell but to educate people on solar panels. Mark said he will come back next meeting with a little bit more information. The event would happen in the summer on a sunny day.

Nicole Kachadorian asked Mark if he ever heard of solar flower. It is a free-standing solar flower and it opens and closes and follows the sun. She doesn't know a lot about it but supposedly it provides solar power and is something new.

The second thing Mark is interested in is he would like to call meetings with people at Riverfront Park. He was thinking that maybe Wanda Canoe Club, girl and boy scouts, EC and GT. He would contact stakeholders in the park and discuss plans for the park so it is easier for everyone to use. The Wanda Canoe Club has a lot of nice events that would be great if the entire town was aware of them.

Tammy said she would like to start a tiny native garden that she would take care of. Donna from the DPW advised her to talk to Alan O'Grady about this. Mark told Tammy that Commissioner Kohles is in charge of the parks.

**2020 Environmental Commission Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects – Deadline Friday April 3, 2020 –** information will be sent to all members so they can review and send their thoughts. There might be some possibilities the EC can apply for.

Nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman were held.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez Acosta, nominating Steve Quinn as Chairman.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn, nominating Mark Olson as Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other nominations made, the Secretary cast one vote for Steve Quinn as Chairman, and one vote for Mark Olson as Vice-Chairman.

The next regular meeting will be February 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta adjourning the meeting at 8:02 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca