

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. – VIA ZOOM

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 9, 2021**

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: Tammy Lavery, Harry Menta, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Lisa Rehm. Excused: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Leslie Olson. Absent: Matt Graves.

Hearing of Citizens: Nicole Terrarosa and Gianna Terrarosa were present as guests. Gianna is working with Linda Quinn, her adviser, and Steve Quinn on a pollinator garden at the high school as her Girl Scout Gold Medal Project. The project is moving really well so far. They are helping her with the selection of plants. Steve Quinn told Gianna to feel free to reach out to any of the EC members. They are a wealth of knowledge and help for her. Gianna said she has met with Tammy Lavery in the past.

A motion was made by Tammy Lavery and seconded by Linda Quinn to approve the February 9, 2021, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve Quinn announced that he was going to keep the meeting moving as tonight was an exciting night for the Village. At the BOC meeting at 7:30 p.m., the BOC were voting on a bond ordinance to set aside funds for the Nature Preserve. He and others have been working on this for over 50 years and it will become a great resource for environmental education and nature study in RP. This trail and boardwalk will open up the educational and recreational potential of our Nature Preserve for Village Residents. The Nature Preserve, when provided with an access trail and boardwalk, will be a wonderful amenity for our town providing opportunities for nature study and school and scout activities for all. Members can sign into the BOC meeting as soon as the EC meeting ends as they were previously sent the link to the meeting.

Payment of Bills: None this month.

Correspondence:

- Email dated 2/1/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 2/10/21
- Letter dated 2/4/21 Re: Specialty RX Building C, 30 Bergen Turnpike, Application for a waterfront development individual permit.
Steve saw the plans for this as part of the Planning Board. Everyone is welcomed to view them at 50 Main Street. It is a development right north of the Rte 46W bridge on the banks of the Hackensack River. It is a previously developed property so it is not environmentally valuable, per se; there is no marsh or natural area but what is important about it is that we are trying to, with our zoning master plan, that whenever property on the riverfront is developed, we are trying to urge the developer to provide for a right of way along the water's edge. Every time a waterfront property is developed, we try to create a pathway along the water's edge so that as the future goes on and more and more properties come before the Village Board for development, that we can eventually have a pathway that follows the course of the river along RP's western edge on the Hackensack River. We intend to make that appeal when these particular developers come before the PB at its next meeting.
- Letter dated 2/8/21 from Churchill Consulting Engineers, NJ Turnpike Authority, NJTA Project No. 040E0059 Statewide Multi-Permit Application, NJTA Maintenance and Repair Activities
- Email dated 2/25/21 from Commissioner Gerken advising that the BOC said to continue with Earth Day plans
- Email dated 2/26/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 2/25/21
- Email dated 2/26/21 from Sustainable Jersey Re: 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle funded by the PSE&G Foundation is now open
- Email dated 3/2/21 from Hugh Carola Re: Earth Day – boat will operate with a maximum of 6-7 persons (plus Bill) on the boat at any one time, masks mandated and social distancing. Boat is reserved for May 1 for RP.
- Email dated 3/5/21 from Tammy Lavery Re: Wednesday Walks in the Garden webinars sponsored by Ecological Landscape Alliance
- Email dated 3/9/21 from ANJEC – 2021 ANJEC Grants for Open Space Stewardship Projects Deadline 4/19/21
The EC will look into this before next meeting. It is a good opportunity to do some work at the nature preserve. The awards are \$1,500.00 each.

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – Steve Quinn sent members suggestions for the 15 larger interpretive panels that will be featured along the boardwalk/trail in the Ridgefield Park Nature Preserve requesting comments, changes, and suggestions from all EC members. Members discussed his suggestions and all were pleased with them.

Lisa Rehm asked if there will be a website associated with the Nature Preserve. Steve said that Mayor Anlian would like to see Friends of the Nature Preserve complete with QR codes, etc. If any member of the EC has these talents, please present your ideas. Members thought it would be good to have QR codes, where videos and topics could be changed easily, bird songs available at a sign, etc., so that it is more interactive. The Nature Preserve will provide a lot of opportunities for schools.

Green Business – Leslie Olson will provide an update.

BYOB – Lisa Rehm offered to hang the signs. Leslie just recently returned home from a trip so Steve said he will contact her.

NJ Clean Communities Grant – Steve Quinn said that the EC will be administering these funds. The NJ Clean Communities Program is monies that are put aside for towns to conduct litter clean-ups in their parks, along their streets, in open space area. There is funding available for supplies and equipment necessary to do that. There are also monies available to reward organizations that assist with the clean-ups as an expression of appreciation for their hard work. Steve thought this was a good thing because the EC could then target parks and other areas of the town and have different organizations like scouting groups conduct clean-ups, or other organizations, and then be able to reward them with funding as well as be able to purchase all the necessary items needed for the clean-ups.

Earth Day 2021 – The high tide on May 1, 2021, is 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Gerken sent an email that he spoke to the BOC and if the Covid-19 indicators continue to move downward, they see no reason at this time to cancel the Earth Day/Green Fair 2021 scheduled for May 1. We will continue to follow Gov. Murphy's and the NJ Department of Health guidelines, social distancing, wearing a mask, etc. Letters have gone out to all participants advising them of this and plans will move forward for Earth Day. Mark Rust will be contacted to confirm the date. The EC will contact Sergio Radossi to see who is the new contact for HRFA. Troop 3 asked if the EC would like them to have grab & go foods available instead of cooking and members thought that was a good idea.

New Business:

Harry Menta asked if there is a completion date for the Nature Preserve. Steve Quinn said Mayor Anlian is thinking that based on approval of the bond ordinance, the contract will be awarded by bid and estimated the Nature Preserve would be completed by fall, meaning the basic trail and boardwalk. All kinds of gardens and signage will still be worked on but the basic work should be done by the fall. It will be essential to have some sort of opening in the fall – ribbon cutting, etc. Steve said he will verify this timeline with the Mayor.

The next regular meeting will be April 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Harry Menta adjourning the meeting at 7:33 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner William Gerken

Info for April meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75999621083?pwd=UIRpRXYxTU5tYUZY0RSV0hab1J2QT09>

Meeting ID: 759 9962 1083

Passcode: 3PsA19