

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 11, 2021**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Lisa Rehm, Matthew Graves. Excused: Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Gloria Rivera.

Hearing of Citizens: Nicole Terrarosa and Gianna Terrarosa were present as guests.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Lisa Rehm to approve the April 13, 2021, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills:

PO 44895 – Amazon Capital Services – \$27.63 – Masks for Earth Day 5/1/21
PO 44896 – Hudson River Fisherman's Assoc. - \$250.00 – Fishing Derby @ Earth Day 5/1/21
PO 44909 – Reidel Sign Co. Inc. - \$75.00 – Updating Earth Day banner
PO 44927 – Mark Rust Entertainment - \$500.00 – Music for Earth

Correspondence:

- Email dated 4/16/21 Re: KABR to develop 266 residential units with retail at 95 Challenger Road and 600 residential units with retail at 64 Challenger Road. Comments due by 5/14/21.
Planning Board has been reviewing these applications. There have been discussions on how to connect them to RP and make them feel a part of RP. Steve urges any members to write to the secretary or himself and let us know your thoughts. Plans are available at 50 Main Street. These are large residential developments. Members suggested maybe having some sort of community room in the building and some sort of shuttle service to bring elderly to shop in RP. Another thought was maybe a water walkway. Nicole Terrarosa questioned what does the town anticipate will be the make-up for schools for example. The plans are for 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units as well as low-income units. There is the potential to add to more students.
- Email dated 4/22/21 from ANJEC Re: Clean Energy Update Webinar 5/19/21 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Email dated 4/23/21 from ANJEC Re: Environmental News Digest 5/23/21
- Email dated 4/26/21 from Jenny Yu Re: Earth Day – Wanda Canoe Club will not attend
- Email dated 4/30/21 from ANJEC Re: Webinar Resources
- Email dated 5/2/21 from Ken Dolsky, NJ Forest Watch Re: Important information about the impact of new Forest Management Billson Ridgefield Park
- Email dated 5/2/21 from ANJEC Re: Turning a Liability into an Asset: Remediating and Redeveloping Brownfields in New Jersey 5/6/21
- Email dated 5/4/21 from ANJEC Re: Action Alert Update on Pending Forestry Bills
- Email dated 5/5/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest
- Email dated 5/7/21 from ANJEC Re: Getting Ahead of the Stampede – EV Charging in Your Town

Old Business:

Green Business – Leslie Olson has an appointment to see someone from Betsy's Bagels this week. She is visiting a new restaurant in town, OCCA Sushi on Mt. Vernon Street and Roll House Dragon on Main Street. Leslie gave a brief description of what a green business is and how the EC is trying to encourage businesses to use thought and sustainable practices in their business, for example, recycled plastic, aluminum cans, making sure electricity is turned off in the evening, eliminate Styrofoam in business, look for alternate methods for take-out, bring your own container. Cost issue is an issue for a lot of them. Leslie has noticed they are giving up foam teacups. The business gets a decal if they comply.

BYOB – Steve Quinn left the signs for Lisa Rehm earlier today. Lisa was told to come up with a plan, day and time and the EC will get as many members that are available to assist her. Nicole Terrarosa and Matt Graves said they could help.

Earth Day 2021 – Earth Day was held May 1, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The day went very well and was very successful. The programs were very well attended. Many EC members were present to help out. It was a very

educational event. The fishing went well. Lisa Rehm said it was very well attended and it was good to see all the families out there. It was also the first public program that RP offered since the pandemic. Commissioners Gerken and Olson as well as Mayor Anlian were very pleased with the event. The music was very good for this type of event.

New Business:

Gianna Terrarosa has been working on a pollinator garden as her Gold Award project for the Girl Scout. She spoke to Greg at G&D Landscaping who would be happy to donate topsoil for the garden. He will go to the garden and measure to see how much topsoil is needed. Leslie Olson suggested she ask what mix of soil should be so she knows what the plants are going to get. He asked if she was using fertilizer and she said no because native plants don't need much.

Steve said he has not been able to connect with landscape ties for around the garden. He was hoping to find a source with Home Depot since they are typically generous to scouts. Nicole said the Bergen County Audubon Society was willing to donate plants. She also got plants from Linda Quinn and will also speak to the local hardware store. There have been a lot of sources. Tammy Laverty asked if she rallied a group to help her and the EC said they would be happy to help her.

Eagle Preserve Letter:

Steve Quinn will be sending a proposed letter to all members for review because he needs the names of the people at US Fish & Wildlife Service and the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife before he can send the letter. He should have the names in the next week and will circulate the letter in the meantime.

This letter is to inquire about the approved eagle sanctuary in the southern part of the property. The federal agency approved it for the Skymark proposal. We are hoping that that approval will carry forward onto any subsequent plans. NJ Dept. of Transportation is planning on developing a bus depot on that site. The Village wants to see that preserve carried forward. They will let us know if we need to negotiate that preserve again.

Nature Preserve Update: On Thursday, Boswell Engineering, that helped put together the plan for the boardwalk, nature trail and preserve, will be having a zoom meeting for the contractor that was awarded the bid with the Mayor, Commissioners Gerken, Olson, Chief Rella, DPW and Board of Education in Ridgefield Park. This is just to review the work, where it will be occurring, how it will impact on the property of the Board of Education and surrounding community, just to kind of set a timetable and review of the scope of the project. Things are moving along in a positive way. It is great to see things about to happen.

They want to make the nature trail ADA accessible as well as include QR codes. There will be 15 interpretive panels planned along the way that will cover a number of topics on local plants and hydrology, The EC would like to connect things through technology to access websites that provide info on those topics.

Leslie Olson asked if they were considering no trash cans in the nature preserve? Steve said he is thinking about it more and more that it might be wiser to have a policy like national parks – carry in/carry out. Maybe put a trash can at trails head but none along the trails. One and then nothing in between so it is easier to empty. It would be a real hardship for the DPW to empty along the trail. Maybe start with one and see how it goes.

By gathering names for the RP Nature Association, a real stewardship of natural environment is being formed. Once the trail goes in, it will make the area more accessible for residents. It will also provide the EC with an opportunity to really nurture an awareness for education of adults and kids in the Village. Members should send any thoughts they have about the nature preserve to Steve Quinn.

The next regular meeting will be June 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Typically, the EC does not meet in July and August unless something urgent comes up. Meetings will resume in September at the Civic Center.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara DeLuca
Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner William Gerken

Info for zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75999621083?pwd=UIRpRXYxTU5tYUZY0RSV0hab1J2QT09>
Meeting ID: 759 9962 1083
Passcode: 3PsA19