

NEXT MEETING: June meeting is cancelled. Members will be notified of workshop sessions during the summer. In-person meetings to resume September 22, 2022.

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
May 26, 2022**

Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:06 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: Veronica Leone, Janet Malool, Leslie Olson, Dennise Santana, Nicole Terrarosa, Rita Raftery, Dyan Thiemann. Absent: Diane Mancini, Berlinda Rodriguez, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Daniele Fede, Christopher Gibbons, Janet Harris, Daniel Raftery, Gloria Rivera. No guests present.

The minutes of the April 21, 2022, meeting were approved on a motion by Leslie Olson and seconded by Dennise Santana. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of bills: None this month.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Correspondence:

- Email dated 4/30/22 from Aero Farms Re: Growing Innovation: Join Our AgTech Summit + Edison Award Win
- Email dated 5/1/22 from Leslie Olson Re: April 23 Survey Results
- Email dated 5/3/21 from Franchesca Macalintal Re: Membership/Internship/Employment Inquiry
- Email dated 5/4/22 from Elaine Fondiller Re: Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County
- Email dated 5/13/22 from Sarah Profitt Re: Composting
- Email dated 5/14/22 from Melissa Cavins, HS Principal Re: Blood Drive – Future Health Professionals will connect GT with the advisor so they can participate
- Email dated 5/16/22 from George & Linda Cooke Re: Article on George Cooke – thanks
- Email dated 5/18/22 from American Red Cross Re: Confirming Blood Drive on October 1 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Email dated 5/18/22 from Claire Hill of Women's Club Re: Inclusion in Welcome Guide
- Email dated 5/18/22 from Commissioner Olson Re: Welcome Guide

Reports:

Financial: Nothing new to report.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS: Recycling is coming along nicely with volunteers continuing the pick-ups. The DPW is responsible for emptying plastic bags and EPS.

Public Arts Master Plan: The Planning Board voted on the Village's Master Plan on April 4. The Public Arts element in the Master Plan is now approved. The Master Plan is on the village website.

<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/home/pages/village-master-adopted-442022-housing-plans> (page 88 Public Art).

Bergen Hub: Their topic continues to be EPS recycling events.

Sustainable Jersey: The application was submitted with a total of 405 points in round 1 of the certification process.

Old Business:

Newsletter: The GT submitted a few articles for the newsletter. The Mayor wants a blurb on the Welcome Packet. Members should start thinking about articles for the fall newsletter. Sustainable You was one suggestion – don't buy new for one week challenge. The GT Facebook page is dedicated to No Buy Challenges. It will list what the challenges were. There is RP Free Cycle Swap & Shop. Dennise will reach out to RP Free Cycle.

Alkaline: There is now a container to collect used alkaline batteries.

Plastic Bag & Styrofoam: There should be a back-up list of names and email/phone numbers when someone is unable to do a pick-up of bags so another person can take over that day. Back-ups are: Leslie Olson, Veronica Leone, Dan & Rita Raftery, Nicole Terrarosa.

Sustainable Jersey: The GT submitted with 405 points this cycle.

There are 145 points that have expired on 12/31/21. Updates on those actions:

Environmental Commission – Barbara DeLuca, Steve Quinn - Done

Green Team – Leslie Olson – Done

Green Business Recognition Program – Completed. Betsy's Bagels and Brownie Cafe added.

Community Outreach and Education – Nicole Terrarosa/Leslie & Veronica Partners – 3 projects: Monarch Pledge, Clean-Up Day, April 23rd Declutter Flyers, Bee Grant with library – Completed

Innovative Community Project 1: Welcome Packet – Dennise Santana – Completed. Project is continually updated.

Emergency Communications Planning – Janet Malool – Completed

Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies – Janet Malool – Completed

Energy Tracking and Management – Leslie Olson, reports are requested from PSEG

Community Garden – Janet Malool – Completed

Tree Maintenance Program – Done

Recycled Paper – Done

Prescription Drug & Safety – Done

Extreme Temperature Event Plan – Completed – waiting for comments after review.

Green Your Green Fair – under construction

Support Local Businesses – under construction – Janet Malool and Nicole Terrarosa will look at this action.

Buy Fresh Buy Local – under construction – Janet Malool and Nicole Terrarosa will look at this action.

There is a new local health assessment action that Leslie and Barbara are working on. They will continue to work on this action over the summer.

Upcoming Events:

- NJ Sustainability webinar – Veronica Leone registered.
- Annual Swap & Shop – scheduled for September 24
- Health Fair & Blood Drive – scheduled for October 1

Leslie Olson mentioned that she was looking into AeroFarms as a way to make the Green Fair more sustainable.

There is a pollinator garden at Fellowship Park. Commissioner Olson suggests the GT buy native plants for the community garden. Janet Malool will look into this.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Dennise Santa that the GT fund the pollinator garden live plantings as immediately as we can do it. All were in favor of the motion.

A short discussion was held on newspapers and magazines and how they need to be separated for recycling purposes. The GT also wants to remind residents of what and how to recycle. Educate people that numbers 1, 2 & 5 can be recycled.

New Business:

Channel 12 news did a short segment on Mr. Savino's civics class and their recycling project. This will be added to Facebook.

Leslie Olson suggested that the June meeting be cancelled and workshops be held in place throughout the summer to continue to work on Sustainable Jersey actions so the application is ready to be submitted for round 2.

The Health Fair is scheduled for October 1 at the K of C. The GT was approved by the American Red Cross to also hold a blood drive downstairs at the K of C from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Publicity will be worked on before then so the GT can reach the goal of 40 points of donated blood.

Publicizing the Swap and Shop will now begin.

GT Website:

Leslie Olson suggested that the section of What We Do be changed to a monthly article that is updated each month. Harry Menta said the Facebook page and the GT page on the Village website need to work together to get each other more views.

There was a discussion about a family that has an amazing backyard complete with chickens. Dyan Thiemann was asked if she could arrange a tour of this yard for the GT members. The idea of highlighting different green businesses and possibly green residents was tossed around as possible future projects for the Facebook and GT page on the website.

The July meeting date (or another date if decided upon) will be used as a work session to get moving on the fall work necessary for SJ and events to be held.

Members were advised that the Village Clerk's Office has summer hours from 6/6 – 9/2. Monday-Thursday hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Fridays are 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SJ Actions that will expire 12/31/22:

Establish a Creative Team
Creative Assets Inventory
Utilizing Your Creative Assets

Lead Education & Outreach
Building Healthier Communities
Innovative Community Project #2 – Pollinator Garden
Environmental Commission Site Plan Review
[Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation](#)

Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution

Community Asset Mapping
Community Paper Shredding Day

Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Recycling Depot
Grass Cut It & Leave It Program
Materials Reuse Program
Reusable Bag Education

Some events to note that are taking place shortly:

6/11 Summer Arts Fest ends on Grove Street

- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. artists on Grove Street
- 6:00 p.m. shows start

Harry Menta said that Event Brite is good to use for publicity for events being held. Members are going to look into the point system and possibly use it for Sustainable You or the Swap & Shop. The GT is thinking about holding a Toy Swap in September.

Earth Day/Green Fair went very well but attendance was not high. Part of the reason was the extreme heat as well as other commitments for families with children. Some incentives will be added to get more families to participate in the future.

Second Chance Toys was happy and pleased that the GT was one of the first in the community to sign up. The GT might partner with the next shredding day and give out info.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Harry Menta to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The June meeting is cancelled. Members will be notified when workshop meetings will take place over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca
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cc: Commissioner Mark Olson