

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. in court room

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
February 24, 2022**

Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Dennise Santana, Nicole Terrarosa, Daniel Raftery, Rita Raftery. Absent: Diane Mancini, Berlinda Rodriguez, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Daniele Fede, Christopher Gibbons, Janet Harris, Gloria Rivera, Dyan Thiemann.

The minutes of the January 27, 2022, were approved on a motion by Veronica Leone and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of bills: None this month.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Correspondence:

- Email dated 2/2/22 from Deborah Fagnan Re: invitation: Library Grant: Bee's @ Thu Feb 10, 2022 7pm – 8pm
- Email dated 2/10/22 from SJ Re: Congratulations on Silver Recertification
- Email dated 2/10/22 from Mayor Anlian Re: Congratulations on Silver Recertification
- Email dated 2/10/22 from Mayor Anlian Re: Monarch Pledge

Reports:

Financial: Nothing new to report.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS: Rita and Dan Raftery said the pick-ups are going smoothly at the church, library and DPW. The hardware store did move their bin but it is still being used for garbage from the construction site so they won't be picking up from there at this time. Veronica Leone also picks up plastic bags. Mark and Leslie Olson handle the EPS. They checked today and it was full. They will probably empty it next week.

Rita Raftery said there is a new store on Route 17S, Mom's Market, that is environmentally friendly. Rita also mentioned that the UPS Store in Teaneck takes popcorn stuffing for recycling.

Public Arts Master Plan: There is nothing new to report.

Bergen Hub: Veronica Leone and Leslie Olson are now on the distribution list for the Bergen Hub. The next meeting is February 28.

Second Chance Toys: Leslie gave a brief description of Second Chance Toys to those at the meeting. It is a middleman that takes hard plastic toys and encourages communities or individuals to take them to other places. The GT has partnered with them to do a collection on April 23 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The GT must collect 50 toys for them to do a pick-up. The GT is doing this as a trial of recycling hard plastics for the town. The GT will make up a flyer giving examples of what is acceptable hard plastic to recycle. Volunteers will be needed for the event. It is also the same day as the town-wide clean-up day with the girl scouts. Rita Raftery said she was available to help out. Nicole will be at the clean-up with the girl scouts.

Old Business:

Sustainable Jersey: There are 145 points that have expired on 12/31/21. Leslie would like to see everyone partner up to complete the actions to maintain silver certification.

New Business:

Calendar: There are several upcoming events that members should take note of.

March 25 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Super Charge Meet & Greet for Electric Vehicles

March 31 (Moonachie) & April 3 (Bergen Community College) – Hazardous Waste Collection Days

April 23 –

Main Street Clean-up Day – girls scouts and family will be picking up on Main Street, entry of town. They are also invited to clean their own blocks.

Shredding Day – at DPW

Second Chance Toy Collection – at DPW, members needed 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Arbor Day Ceremony

April 30 – 5th Anniversary of the Community Garden

Recruiting new members: Dennise has posted a flyer on social media to interest residents to get involved with the GT. Harry Menta will add it to the GT page on the Village website. Janet Malool said that Roosevelt School Principal Jason Cata approached her at a Board of Education meeting and said he would like to get involved with the GT. He said he has experience with SJ from a previous school.

SJ – Maintaining Silver Certification: There are 145 points that need to be recertified for this year. The tasks will be divided up among the members. Next month, the GT will check the status of these actions.

Environmental Commission – Barbara DeLuca, Steve Quinn

Green Team – Leslie Olson

Green Business Recognition Program – Veronica Leone and Leslie Olson (Gina the Bakers, Baked Merengue, Coach's Corner, Rising Sun) Harry Menta and Rita Raftery said they could also visit businesses.##

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

Innovative Community Project 1: Welcome Packet – Dennise Santana

Emergency Communications Planning – Janet Malool

Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies – Janet Malool

Energy Tracking and Management – Donna Rose-McEntee

Community Garden – Janet Malool

Tree Maintenance Program – STC

Recycled Paper – Leslie Olson/Harry Menta* (need to get copies of purchase orders)

Prescription Drug & Safety – Leslie Olson has last year's information. /Harry Menta*

Partner collaborates to compile data reports needed by assignee unless otherwise specified

*content review, editing and photos

##"Street Team" recruits businesses and gets applications completed.

Extreme Temperature Event Plan – Janet Malool said it wasn't approved but she still wants to look into it further.

Green Your Green Fair – needs to be done after the Green Fairs

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

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

As far as plastic bags, the GT should make a list of all stores that are participating and following the new laws. The EC was working on handing out a notice to the stores about the changes involving straws, bags and foam. It will also be given to Harry Menta to post on the website.

Consolidate Online Presence: Veronica looked into the former FB page for the EC/GT. Joe D'Angeli was the administrator. Veronica spoke to Joe and asked him if he could remove the GT from it. She has started the Ridgefield Park Green Team FB page. This new FB page will be used for publicity only. Official correspondence should still go to greenteam@ridgefieldpark.org. Veronica said she will head this activity. Members should look at the GT page on the Village website to see if there is anything outdated that they would like removed. Harry Menta has access to the website and does the updating. Members need to check before they remove something because some things are posted as part of SJ actions.

Newsletter: It would be very helpful to the GT and all organizations if they also knew the distribution date of the newsletter when deadlines are given. This will allow for more timely articles in the newsletter. Leslie said she will attend a BOC meeting to advise the BOC.

Alkaline Batteries: Leslie will be ordering a collection container for alkaline batteries only. A flyer advising everyone that they can now recycle alkaline batteries will be sent out in the schools and posted on social media and the Village website.

Dennise Santana said that Hasbro has teamed up with TerraCycle to collect non-hard toys. Leslie said that the DPW has agreed to a trial by accepting the hard plastic toys to see if its worthwhile for them to do. The GT and DPW have to decide on how to handle this Maybe do it once a quarter. There is an entity that takes damaged, hard plastics as well.

Leslie Olson said that she would like to reschedule the April meeting for April 21 so members can touch base before the Second Chance Toy collection and clean-up day on April 23. The new date will be advertised.

A motion was made by Janet Malool and seconded by Harry Menta to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the court room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson

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