

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014**

Kevin Avery called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 sent to The Record and the Newark Star Ledger on the 10th day of January, 2014. Members present were: Peter Garvey and Kevin Avery.

The minutes of the August 28, 2014, could not be approved as there was no quorum.

**Correspondence received:** None received.

**Old Business:** All members – please make note that the meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

**Only Peter Garvey and Kevin Avery were available to attend the meeting on September 25. Here are the recommendations based on Steve Quinn's email:**

1. Schedule a meeting with Skymark, the RPEC and include the Board of Commissioners (at George Fosdick's request) as well.

**Did George Fosdick request this meeting? Steve will really need to schedule this meeting as his attendance is most important at this meeting and he usually sets up the scheduling based on his availability.**

2. Request review of documents Skymark sent o DEP regarding their application for a permit regarding the RP nesting Bald Eagles. (This might be determined by the State DEP to be a "take" permit).

**Does the request need to go to Skymark or to someone at the DEP?**

3. Review response from Don Kistner, status of contractor bid status regarding planned work for the large "overpeck preserve" portion of Overpeck County Park as it relates to the entire park, its uses, and it's possible impacts on Ridgefield Park. Request copy of County Park Comm. plans for the area for Village review.

**Did anyone receive a response from Don Kistner or any further information on the plans?**

4. The drafting of a letter from the RPEC to the RP Board of Commissioners requesting them to write to the Bergen County Park Commission requiring the County to address and correct what has become a quality of life issue for the village brought about by the intrusion of loud amplified sounds broadcasts throughout the large northeastern portion of the village during scheduled park events. In this letter the RPEC should recommend that RP Board of Commissioners demand that the Bergen County Park Commission execute sound testing and install sound barriers and sound-absorbing landscaped berms to prevent sound pollution from disturbing the residential homes and backyards in the affected areas of the village. It should be noted in this letter that loud amplified sound is not permitted and a violation to village codes unless a permit is applied for from the village. Loud sound applications have intruded onto, otherwise, peaceful and quiet residential neighbor homes and backyards on numerous occasions since the park has been active. This is, clearly, a quality of life issue, that should be addressed by the County. If required, attach copy of advisory letter to RP Board of Commissioners, dated 12/2006, after review of BC Park Commission plan for future park, that advises RP Commissioners to request the elimination of the planned amphitheater, or request it's relocation into the town of Teaneck, and reduce it's size. Also, the use of prop-engine low-flying aircraft trailing advertisements (similar to those utilized along the New Jersey coastline) flying over Ridgefield Park and other residential communities around the County Park, should not be permitted both for safety reasons and also because of the loud sound from their

engines which, again, generate noise pollution. It should be noted that, when utilized along the New Jersey Shore, these loud and noisy aircraft are permitted to fly out over the Atlantic Ocean only, not low over residential homes and communities.

**The EC thinks it would be best to follow the chain of command and start with the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to get their thoughts on the noise coming from the parks and see if they have a plan. The EC should request to speak to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners at a caucus meeting first before sending any letters and discuss how much of a problem the Mayor and Board of Commissioners think the noise is.**

Also, has anyone guided the RP Girl Scouts in locations for the installation of their constructed bat houses?

**As per Peggy Conversano: The DPW has installed three of the Girl Scouts' bat houses in Ridgefield Park: at McGowan Park and Riverside Park. I have a fourth bat house and we are working with the DPW to get that installed as well.**

Also, has anyone checked on the status of the Japanese Knotweed patches on the banks of the Hackensack River at Riverside Park where we attempted to stop invasive growth with plastic sheeting and or constant mowing. If or when eradicated, are we going to propose alternate plantings, such as the grasses Don Smith suggested or Rosa rugosa (Beach Rose)

**Peter Garvey and Kevin Avery will check out the status at Riverside Park as well as checking on the status of the trees planted by Nick Gerken at the Nature Preserve.**

Finally, please note in the minutes that I am continuing work on the two interpretive panels, one for McGowan Park and one for Riverside, and suggest that we also prepare two more for installation in the R.P. Nature Preserve. One at the entrance and one at the "overview" on the main trail. Also, The RPEC should reach out to Troop 3 Boy Scouts to schedule a "cleanup/checkup" of Nick Gerkin's tree planted site and inquire about the availability of Eagle Scout Candidates for projects that will continue work on the RP Nature Preserve.

**Kevin Avery will be visiting the sites as he also works on the wording for the interpretive panels.**

**Interpretive Signs** – Steve Quinn is continuing work on the drawings and suggests two more for installation in the RP Nature Preserve.

#### **New Business:**

**Tree Walk:** The next tree walk is October 11, 2014. Harry Menta has sent out publicity for this event and flyers have been distributed to the schools. Peter Garvey will hang flyers in the stores.

Jim Ruff said that in the future the EC needs to set up an action plan and deadline for all activities in order to keep things running on a timely basis. He does not see the need for any emergency meetings unless there is a specific deadline to be met. Each month there will be an action listed and a deadline for the completion of each action that the EC will follow.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2014, at **7:30 p.m.**

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca