

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M. **ONE WEEK EARLY
GREEN TEAM MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 26, 2016

Commissioner Anlian called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 31st day of December, 2015. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Mark Olson, Leslie Olson, Linda Quinn and Stephen Quinn. Commissioner John Anlian was also present. Gloria Rivera and Joe D'Angeli were present as observers with a possible interest in joining the EC.

The minutes of the April 28, 2016, meeting were approved.

Correspondence received: Upcoming Free Training Events from Sustainable Jersey was distributed to all members

Old Business:

Interpretive Signs – Steve Quinn had the instructions for installing the signs sent to the DPW. Steve Quinn said he could be available when the signs are installed.

Bird Count - The spring bird count was held prior to the start of the Earth Day Celebration on May 7. A few people participated and enjoyed the event.

New Business:

Guillermo Lopez-Acosta was welcomed as a regular member to the Environmental Commission. Jim Ruff is now an alternate member until December 2016. Commissioner Anlian gave a brief description of some of the environmental challenges that the Village is faced with. He explained to the visitors about the CSO order that RP must follow. Both Gloria Rivera and Joe D'Angeli said they were very much interested in becoming part of the EC. Gloria will be appointed as an alternate and Joe will be appointed as an associate.

Commissioner Anlian then explained that the EC needs a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta nominating Steve Quinn as Chairman. All were in favor of this motion.

Leslie Olson said she would volunteer for Vice-Chairperson if Kevin Avery was not interested in the position. A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn nominating Leslie Olson as Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor of this motion.

Now that membership is complete and a new Chairman and Vice-Chairperson have been selected, the ANJEC dues and updated roster will be sent in. An updated roster will be distributed to all members.

Earth Day 2016 – The Earth Day Celebration was held on May 7, 2016. The day went well. The weather held out so only the animal shows had to be moved inside. The shows were enjoyed by all who watched them. The kids seemed to enjoy the Mad Science show. Winners of ice cream parties were: Thomas Jefferson – Ripoli Grade 1; Grant – Mastellone Grade 4; Lincoln – Carey Grade 5; Roosevelt – Manzo Grade 2; Morris Grade 3; McArrow Grade 4. Pizza party: Thomas Jefferson – Ripoli Grade 1 and Roosevelt – Morris Grade 3. Next year attendance prizes will probably be awarded one to each school for best attendance of the day instead of each show.

Fishing with Sergio Radossi from NJ Outdoor Alliance was very popular. They provided prizes for anyone that caught a fish. It seemed to be the big highlight of the day. The library was happy to have participated. Other participants were: Hackensack Riverkeeper, NJ Audubon Society, Ambulance Corps., Public School Ecosystems on display, Troop 3, Wanda Canoe Club, face painter, the Quinns set up a table, the DPW and Mark Rust as the musical entertainment. Unfortunately, the boat had to cancel the day before so there were no boat rides.

Nature Preserve - The Nature Preserve needs a lot of work. Commissioner Anlian said that the Nature Preserve is something that has taken over 40 years to get it to this point. There is a possible future solution to permanently remove these invasive weeds. In the meantime, the EC needs to turn it into a destination so residents take ownership of the condition of the Nature Preserve. The EC should focus on putting a trail and a bench in the Nature Preserve. The DPW will be able to help. The EC needs to make it look like a beneficial use for the Village. Last month the Boy Scouts cleaned up all the litter. Mark Olson feels that maybe if the public were engaged in helping that it might be more likely to take ownership of the Nature Preserve.

There are fewer than 200 of the tree saplings that have survived. Foreign shrubs have invaded the Nature Preserve. They need to be controlled. Fencing this area in the future would be a nice feature. This would help keep out the deer in the future. The woodland area would be the intended area for fencing. This would not include the area where the scouts did the trees. The EC needs to find a way to get the community vested in this area. Don Torino would be a great asset in this project to help educate the community.

Sustainable Jersey program – Commissioner Anlian explained that Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Although RP does many of the things they suggest, it is not officially registered as a participant in the program. The Environmental Commission is in the process of forming a Green Team (mandatory part of Sustainable Jersey) to get the Village Sustainable Jersey Certified. The link for the program is www.sustainablejersey.com.

In order to achieve this designation, the Environmental Commission has planned a meeting to try to organize and coordinate the efforts necessary to become Sustainable Jersey Certified. There are many things that the Village already does that would help gain the necessary points to achieve certification. The Village just needs to document the actions already taken and submit the necessary paperwork. The initial meeting to discuss the formation of a Green Team and becoming Sustainable Jersey is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the municipal building. Once the Village achieves this designation, it will be eligible to apply for Sustainable Jersey grants.

There are projects such as the eradication of the knotweed, the nature preserve, eagle protection, public education, Earth Day, school projects, animal shows, having an EC, having a Shade Tree Commission, recycling, promote electric vehicles, etc., that just need to be documented so that proper credit can be given to RP so it earns the necessary 150 points.

Commissioner Anlian, Leslie and Mark Olson and Guillermo Lopez-Acosta recently attended the Bergen County Environmental Conference held on May 19 and heard speakers regarding Sustainable Jersey Program. They brought back some helpful information on getting the Village certified.

Leslie Olson explained that there are some actions that are mandatory and some that are priority. A value is placed on each action. RP needs to appoint a Green Team. Commissioner Anlian said one activity mentioned was solar – the Village could get points and net money on it as well. Mark Olson said it was explained that if something is not mentioned, the Green Team should use it as a community challenge, for example, certified gardens (which there are a few of them in the Village already); charging station for electric vehicles.

Members present went over the Sustainable Jersey Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet to familiarize themselves with possible submissions and decide who should be able to complete each task. Some things might require an ordinance change. The Police Dept. will need to certify activities done under their

guidance. There appears to be about 18 items that RP can qualify for. The EC will have information ready for each person that would have access to the information delegated to complete each activity.

The first thing that needs to be done is the Mayor and Board of Commissioners need to appoint a Green Team. Commissioner Anlian said he will speak with the Village attorney about doing an ordinance to form the Green Team. The EC will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, to discuss forming a Green Team and delegating duties for Sustainable Jersey. Those to be invited to this meeting include: Mayor & Board of Commissioners; Tara O'Grady, Village Clerk; Police Chief Edward Rose; Alan O'Grady, DPW, Supt.; Donna Rose-McEntee, DPW Office Manager; Mike Landolfi, Building Dept.; Fred Rosen, Planning Board; Supt. Eric Koenig; Edward DeSantis, Board President; Michael Alberque, Principal; Todd Meyer, Principal; Angela Bender, Principal; Matthew Perrapato, Principal; James Donohue, Principal; Flo Muller, Shade Tree Commission.

The forming of a Green Team and meeting to discuss Sustainable Jersey will be advertised in the Patriot and Community Message Board as well. All people interested in joining this Team will be welcomed and invited to attend the meeting.

Gloria Rivera said she would call up the State to see if there were any handouts useful for the schools and find out more details about what is meant by diversity under one of the activities. Guillermo Lopez-Acosta said he would work on a mission statement. The EC will find out who runs the Environmental Club at the high school. Joe D'Angeli said he knew someone in Secaucus who has experience in Sustainable Jersey. He said he is sure she would be willing to come to the June 22 meeting and explain how Secaucus got to be a Green Team and what is expected of them. Leslie Olson said she would work with Barbara DeLuca to have the information ready and organized for the people invited to the meeting.

Bat Walk – Joe DeAngeli at The Wild Life said he would be happy to schedule a bat walk in the future.

Recycling Receptacles - Leslie and Mark Olson think the lack of recycling containers on Main Street sends the wrong message about the Village's interest in recycling and the environment. Leslie provided a picture of a small receptacle attached to the trash receptacle in Rutherford. The EC will contact Commissioner Anlian to see if it can proceed with having these installed in RP. Leslie would also like to see the planters redone since the unusual late, cold weather apparently killed the new plantings. Leslie said she is willing to take action on the planters.

Fourth of July Parade – The members would like to see some sort of representation in the July 4th parade by the EC. It could be a small float or even perhaps ask Gerard Garofalow if his LSV could be used for the parade and members walked with it.

School Partnership – Mark Olson will contact the high school to see about trying to get the schools more involved with the EC. He will try to contact the civics teacher, Michael Savino, to see if he might want to work with the EC.

Facebook/Webpage – Joe D'Angeli said he was trying to look up when the EC meeting was and noticed that the webpage is very outdated. It was explained to him that the Village is in the process of making a new webpage. Joe said he would handle updating the webpage. He also thought it would be a good idea for the EC to have a Facebook account. He said he also could handle that assignment.

The meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2016, (one week earlier). Notice of this change will be posted and sent to The Record.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca