

## **NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MAY 23, 2013**

Peter Garvey called the meeting to order at 8:06 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 sent to The Record and the Newark Star Ledger on the 28th day of December, 2012. Members present were: Kevin Avery, Peter Garvey, Gene Hammond, Steve and Linda Quinn. Also present were: Cynde Hammond and Peggy and Erin Conversano.

The minutes of the April 25, 2013, meeting were approved.

#### **Old Business:**

**Eagles** – A discussion was held on the letter to the NJDEP regarding the eagles that Steven Quinn and Kevin Avery were working on. The final draft was approved. Kevin Avery will print up the letter to be signed by Jim Ruff on behalf of the Environmental Commission. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes. Copies of the letter will go to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners, Gil Hawkins, the Riverkeeper, Don Torino of the Audubon Society as well as the developers.

It was also suggested that a copy be sent via email and regular mail to The Record, the Star Ledger, the Patriot and the local cable channel. Kevin will contact Harry Menta for contact information. The time for the birds to fledge is rapidly approaching so the letter needs to go out as soon as possible.

Steve Quinn thinks it might be a good idea to ask for a meeting for a status update after the letter goes out. A letter should go out to Skymark the week of June 3 requesting a meeting with Skymark for an update. The EC should also request a meeting with the DEP to discuss the matter.

**RP Nature Preserve** – The Environmental Commission needs to check on maintenance at the nature preserve. Steve Quinn said he would be around if anyone wanted to go and check on the condition of the trees. Peter Garvey is available. Peggy Conversano said she could also help out. It should take no more than a half-hour to check things out. Everyone will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Steve Quinn thinks the EC should look forward to the next Eagle Scout project or Gold Award project. Erin Conversano was planning to have some people come and clean up the debris that is at the nature preserve. She is going to ask the DPW to supply a dumpster that she could remove the debris into. She would like to do this June 22. She has a sign-up list from Earth Day. She was going to ask some boy scouts she knows as well. This would be done in the upland area. She plans on working by the stream at the end of Brinkerhoff Street and the pool. There is an empty lot by the pool that has trash on it.

Steve Quinn reminded her there is a lot of poison ivy so everyone needs to wear protective clothing. They will meet at 9:00 a.m. on June 22. The EC also needs to check on the sign posted about it being a hazardous area.

On September 7, Erin is thinking of planting flowers around the trees and adding mulch as suggested by Commissioner Anlian. This project would allow younger kids to help out.

**Dock replacement** – There was a meeting last week about the docks. Everyone who needed to be present showed up. They are going to fast track this project. The original invoice was for a little over \$36,000.00, which is over the threshold for requiring a bid. The price was worked on and came under \$36,000.00 so no bid is required. This will speed up the process.

Jodi Jamison of the Riverkeeper submitted a revised overhead view of the dock and a side view as the construction will be done. The DPW will remove the old storm sewer pipe so the dock can be installed. It

should be up very shortly. The DPW will pour a new pad to attach the gangway. The grant is for \$24,000.00. \$4,000.00 would need to be reserved for signage around town advising that there is a public access dock in the Village. The Village would probably need to contribute approximately \$20,000.00.

The EC project would be to remove invasive plants along the water's edge such as Japanese knotweed. Katie Wydell is the name given as the person to talk to about this project. She works for the Meadowlands. Capt. Bill Sheehan said the EC needs to think about the christening of the dock and making it public. An opening event needs to be planned. People to be invited would be: Wanda Canoe Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper (with pontoon boats), Capt. Bill Sheehan should be contacted. The EC should target September for this event and pick whatever day is best for tides if tides are still important for the use of the dock. Peter Garvey said he will contact Jodi Jamison about removing the invasive plants. A meeting should be set up with her to discuss how best to do this removal. Peter will send an email to Jodi about what the process is and what cost there might be for a consultation.

**Interpretive Signs** – Steve Quinn said that he will try for September as a target date for the signs. He should have all the text and design in July and then will be ready to turn the project over to the production company. Steve Quinn and Kevin Avery will work on this.

**Bird Watch** – The bird watch was scheduled for May 4, 2013. It went very well and everyone enjoyed it. The killdeer was a big hit.

**Bat Watch** – Joe Angeli will be contacted to get a date for the bat watch so it can be coordinated with use of the high school. Barbara DeLuca will try to arrange a date in June.

**Girl Scout Project** – Ariana did a planting at Vogt Park on Lincoln Avenue at 9:00 a.m. on May 18. It looks very nice now.

**New Business:** The EC will discuss meeting at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m.

There is work being done by the high school. The EC will ask Commissioner Anlian if he knows what is happening.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2013.

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca