

**NEXT MEETING: GREEN TEAM MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING TO START AT COMPLETION OF GREEN TEAM MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
August 25, 2016**

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Mark Olson, Leslie Olson, Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn, Joe D'Angeli, Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta, Jim Donohue, Joe Rella and Commissioner John Anlian.

The first half of the meeting is a meeting of the Green Team. Although this is the first "official" meeting of the Green Team, there is technically not a Green Team yet. The Resolution has not been voted on yet.

Mark Olson said that he will work on pest management with Joe D'Angeli. Linda Quinn said that Flo Muller of the STC is on vacation but spoke to Fire Chief Mike Lauer about Ready, Set Go and they feel it is not a good fit for RP. Steve Quinn informed the members that if an ordinance is needed under the activity they are working on, the Village attorney would handle that.

The Clerk's Office sent out a memo requesting all departments to review the webpages and let Pave Mandich know if there are any changes to be made. Each department was instructed to verify that the names, titles and phone number of staff members are correct. Departments can submit additional material, such as forms, answers to frequently asked questions, etc. They would like any corrections submitted as soon as possible to [rpasst1@nj.rr.com](mailto:rpasst1@nj.rr.com). Mark and Leslie Olson said they would look at the web.

Jim Donohue said he feels that the Green Team needs to advertise as much as possible and attend public events to get the word out. He thought it would be a good idea to get a table at the Street Fair, which is scheduled for September 17. The Green Team should work on a handout to have at the table. Joe D'Angeli said he had a tent the Green Team could use and Mark Olson and Steve Quinn said they both had tables that could be used. Barbara DeLuca will contact Dominick Frontera, one of the organizers of the event, to see what was necessary to participate. His email is [dominick.frontera@verizon.net](mailto:dominick.frontera@verizon.net). The Green Team could have info available on: bat houses, talk up the Nature Preserve, Weed Warriors, for example.

Jim Donohue also mentioned that there are four or five home football games. The Green Team could put up a display at every game. Each school has a Back-to-School night where the Team could have unmanned tables with information on them. The high school also has students from Little Ferry so it would be good to just create awareness. The first football game is next Friday night and the second is September 9.

Guillermo Acosta-Lopez said he could put up a sign at his church. Steve Quinn said he will gather information on Earth Day. John Anlian told everyone that both of the interpretive panels have been installed. An email will be sent to Kristen Agnes from the Patriot to see if she would like to do a story on them.

At this time Commissioner Anlian arrived. He gave a brief explanation of the process it takes to form the Green Team and make it official. The ordinance was introduced at the last Board of Commissioners meeting. It will be re-introduced in September and will then be adopted. It will then be published in The Record and ten days later, members can be appointed. The Green Team will be made up of 7 regular members and 2 alternates who will be appointed for a term of 3 years. Associate members will be appointed for 1 year. There will be Ex-Officio members – Village Clerk, Police Chief, Supt. of DPW, Commissioner in charge of the Environmental Commission – each one can designate one person to attend the meeting for them.

The seven regular members will be the voting members. Alternates can vote in the event that one or two regular members are not in attendance. Appointments will be officially made in October probably and the initial terms will be staggered so that terms end at different times.

Having tables at these public events will work well with public outreach toward Sustainable Jersey. The Team will need to reach out to get people involved in the point activities. Janet Malool told John Anlian she would like to help create a community garden. The requirements for the Community Garden should be sent to Janet.

Joe Rella said that he gave two projects to Al Locarno to review as they involved him in his position. John Anlian told him to come up with a budget for the different projects he thinks RP could implement. The charging stations might be a good project for RP. There is already one on Challenger Road.

John Anlian thought it would be a good idea to ask everyone how they are doing with their projects. It is probably a good idea to get a status report from everyone.

Jim Donohue wondered if in the efforts to help the environment that sometimes people get a little lost in these efforts. One of his concerns is that while the electric cars might be better for the environment it comes at somewhat of a cost to a disabled person, in particular a blind person who relies on hearing the cars in order to safely cross the street. Joe Rella wondered if there is a way to incorporate some type of vibration into the streets as they are repaved so that it could be felt by a disabled person.

The next regular meeting of the Green Team/Environmental Commission is scheduled for September 22, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m. for the Green Team and followed immediately by the meeting of the Environmental Commission. The Green Team thought it might be a good idea to hold a work session on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Street Fair to be held on September 17.

At this time, 7:55 p.m., the meeting of the Green Team finished and the business to be conducted at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting began.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Steve Quinn to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2016, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

**Correspondence received:** 1) letter dated July 27, 2016, from Langan Re: Notification of Treatment Works Approval Application – Skymark Center  
2) Quote F72880 received from Fossil Industries for sign for Nature Preserve  
3) email from Village Clerk advising all Commissions to review the new website and send in corrections/revisions

Steve Quinn responded by email to Luis Martin's July 3, 2016, email regarding commercial landscaper noise pollution. He advised him of the Village noise ordinance which specifies that no loud machinery can be used between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Steve suggested that he should report commercial landscapers who violate the noise ordinance to the RPPD. He also recommended that Mr. Martin communicate his concerns to the Board of Commissioners for consideration as the EC does.

Steve also pointed out that all of the new motors on the machines have to be 4 sided now; they used to be 2 sided. As the machines need to be replaced, it will slowly eliminate the problem.

As far as the website, Steve said that all members should review the website for comments. The EC can then forward a list to the new administrator, Pave Mandich.

**Nature Preserve** – The Weed Warriors should schedule another day of weeding. It will be held on September 10, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. An email will go out to remind everyone of the new date.

Mark Olson found out some information on wood chips. Mark called a few tree places. Kodiak Tree Experts in Teaneck (201) 836-8585 said they would be happy to donate all the wood chips the EC needs for trails at the nature preserve. They will deliver clean wood chips whenever they are needed.

Mark likes the wood chip option as it is biodegradable and paths can be put anywhere and moved if the location doesn't turn out to be optimal. Stones or pavement lock us in and can't easily be removed from the soil. Wood chip paths also give the DPW an option in the future when they have wood chips they need to get rid of.

John Anlian got information from Mike Kelly of Boswell. This particular section will be used more so maybe it should be stones with crushed stones on top. Another area might be good for the wood chips so that perhaps some experimentation can be done.

John also said that there is a grant that needs to be turned in by October. John said that he is going to talk to Mike Kelly about putting in a few sentences about a trail and boardwalk in the nature preserve.

John is thinking of calling a company that fixed the sidewalks on Main Street a few years ago. Mike Kelly is coming up with preliminary plans for the boardwalk and putting a trail on the other end.

Quote F72880 came in from Fossil Industries for a sign for the nature preserve. The total price would be \$963 and includes: design, mount and mounting brackets, sample and design and production. A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to approve the quote F72880 for a sign for the nature preserve at a cost of \$963. All were in favor of the motion. Funds will be encumbered for this purchase and Steve Quinn will contact Fossil.

**Sustainable Jersey program** – an email will be sent asking for status reports on the various activities.

**Bat Walk** - Joe D'Angeli held the bat walk on August 21, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. There was a good turnout, probably about 50 people but unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative and the walk could not take place outside. There was a story in the NY Times about the bat walk. There are more activities planned for September 18 and October 2. He will send out publicity on the event.

Mark Olson said the existing single chamber bat houses need to be converted into multi-chamber houses. He will work on this. Jim Donohue is going to try to have the wood shop class make some multiple chamber bat houses as well as one of their projects. Two bat houses will be installed at the high school on two utility poles. Joe D'Angeli said it would be a good idea to put a bat house in the community garden.

**Interpretive Panels** – Both panels have been installed. One was installed at McGowan Park and the other at Riverfront Park behind the DPW. The Patriot will be contacted to see if they would like to do a story about the new signs.

**Nature Preserve** – Steve will follow up with Fossil on the sign to be ordered.

Steve Quinn proposes another weed meeting at the Nature Preserve. An email will be sent to all members, community service students as well as the Boy Scouts and Bill Gerken reading: "There will be a meeting of all Weed Warriors on September 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. All willing members should meet at the entrance to the Nature Preserve on the northern end of Overpeck Avenue (dead end section) to do a weeding of this area.

Weed Warriors should wear appropriate footwear, long sleeves, long pants and bring loppers/shears to cut some weeds. The meeting will not last longer than two hours. All volunteers are welcome!"

**Facebook/Webpage** – Joe D'Angeli has the preliminary site up and running. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/ridgefieldparkgreenteam/>. It is a work in progress.

**Recycling Receptacles** – Leslie Olson sent a picture of recycling bins used in Rutherford that she would like to see in Ridgefield Park wherever there is a trash container. John Anlian said the appropriate people to speak to about recycling containers would be the Historic Preservation Commission. They should be picking what fits in with the historic district located along Main Street. An email will be sent to the HPC recommending the addition of recycling receptacles.

**New Business** – The deadline for the next newsletter is October 14 with a delivery date of November 18-22. Suggestions for the newsletter are: bird feeders and what type of food to put out in the winter and when; Spruce trees and the bug worm that attacks them and Christmas trees can be mulched so everything needs to be removed from them when they are disposed.

The meeting ended at 8:47 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016. The meeting of the Green Team will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting of the EC. Steven Quinn will be unavailable for the September 22 meeting.

\*\*There is also a work session scheduled for Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss preparations for the table at the Street Fair on September 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca