

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREEN TEAM MEETING)**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MAY 25, 2017**

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:45 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 message board. Members present were: Peggy Conversano, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, and Stephen Quinn. Not Present: Joseph D'Angeli, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Gloria Rivera, Harry Menta, and James Ruff.

Hearing of Citizens: Katelyn McGirk and Carolina Espin were present as guests.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Linda Quinn, approving the minutes of the April 19, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills: No new bills were submitted.

Correspondence: 1) Letter dated April 19, 2017 from Rutgers inviting the public to the discussion of the Bergen County Parks Master Plan on May 9, 10 & 11.

Mark Olson and Steve Quinn attended this meeting. It was really well prepared and carried out. The public had an opportunity to state however they felt about how the parks were being developed and handled. Steve Quinn spoke on his view about the Bergen County Park Commission should develop opportunities for nature study and preservation of the natural environment in the county parks, and also using the bald eagles in the county park as an example and also noted the sound problems connected with the amphitheater in the Bergen County Park.

There was also a grad student there doing his master's thesis and Mark Olson is going to try to get him to come to a meeting.

Commissioner Anlian has informed Steve that the proposed budget for the EC is \$23,000.00. Steve said he hopes this will cover the cost of the nature preserve main trail, Earth Day and any other events planned for the year.

Old Business:

Earth Day – Steve wanted to thank everyone that worked so hard and did so much to make Earth Day as successful as it was, especially considering the rainy weather most of the day. Steve will be sending a letter to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners thanking the DPW for all of the accommodations they made to bring the event indoors.

Steve held a short discussion of what went well and what did not go well. It was the intent to have a follow-up to discuss how things went based on member's observations. Now is the time to start the discussions. Overall the floor plans for the park, were adapted to the space available indoors and made to work. In the future, there should be a floor plan for indoors in the event of rain. The members felt the last show should start no later than 2:00 p.m. The shows end up running late so the final show should start at 2:00 p.m. Steve and Linda Quinn feel it best not to hold the bird count on the same day. There is too much going on and Steve feels it is important that he be around to assist with setup of the day. It also stops some people from attending because they are helping to send out.

Some of the shows are overlapping. Members want to start the day a little earlier next year, perhaps 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. Next year, there shouldn't be two events scheduled at the same time. The Mad Science show was great for the kids and the beekeeper show was equally as good. Starting earlier next year should solve that problem. There should also be some signs directing people to the inside activities, especially if it rains. Members will think about signage for next year.

New banners should be ordered for next year. One of the problems this year, in addition to the weather, was that the banners were removed just before Earth Day/Green Fair. People thought the event was cancelled due to the weather. The location should be included on the banner for next year.

More information should be on the website about the event. People wrongly assumed there was a rain date. People need to learn to use the website. Mark Olson thinks that the Village should try to list all the events on the message board in front of the municipal building in a section that was simply called Message Board. If people in the Village got used to the fact that all information about the Village was on the website, they would be more apt to go there.

Dyan Thiemann of Lincoln School offered to post info on the school's Instagram account.

Despite the rain, it was a great turn-out. It is estimated there were probably about 200 people visiting throughout the day. The shows were well attended.

Members should also try to think about a solution for the parking congestion for next year. Bogota does want to return next year. If the weather is better, there will be more cars. The EC might want to think about parking at the old train station or maybe working something out with the Elks to use their parking lot and shuttle people in.

It was also decided that vendors really weren't a good fit at this event. The purpose of the event has always been to educate the public and the vendors really didn't fit in. It is not a craft show and people weren't really looking for things to purchase. Some of the items for sale didn't really fit in with the event.

It was also learned that composting doesn't work as a show set for specific times. It works best when you do a show as people walk by and invite participation.

Sustainable Jersey Actions – Most actions regarding this were discussed in the GT meeting held prior to the EC meeting tonight.

Bat Houses – Joe D'Angeli was unable to attend tonight's meeting. One of the gardeners has one week off a month. He will help build the bat houses with Mark.

Future of Nature Preserve – Commissioner Anlian got a lower bid for the main trail. It will be reviewed by Alan O'Grady and Boswell Engineering. The cost is down to \$15,000.00. Commissioner Anlian hopes to have it in by the end of this summer. He is also reapplying to Bergen County Open Space for funding for the boardwalk portion of the project. Steve wants to make sure that the plan has been modified to feature an entrance from the high school side.

Fossil advised that all signs will be delivered by June 22. Hopefully the main trail and signage will be done this summer and we receive good news about the boardwalk portion of the project.

Bergen County Open Space Grant – Hopefully, the County will have funding for this year for the grant.

Eagles – The eagles are still there and well but the nest failed this year.

Weed Warriors – Steve Quinn checked on the nature preserve this past Saturday. The invasive weeds are looking pretty good. There is much less of the angelica present. The area did look open and as if the deer are back grazing. There is the presence of ticks. The EC needs to come up with a solution before another meeting is scheduled.

In the future, maybe the gardeners can be used to help at the nature center as part of their service hours. The area does look open right now, maybe after the first frost and the ticks are killed off. The EC could work on removing the tree tubes. About 20% of the trees have survived. The EC should remove the tree tubes that don't have trees in them. The EC must first find a solution to the tick problem before sending any volunteers in.

New Business:

The EC discussed having a possible fishing derby with the NJ Outdoor Alliance since the weather prevented fishing at Earth Day. NJ Fish & Wildlife sets aside two days, one in June and one in October, that are free fishing days. It was suggested that the EC holds a fishing derby on the free day in October. It could run from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It doesn't have to be the entire day. The EC could give out prizes at the event. This way children as well as adults could fish because they wouldn't need a license.

Wanda Canoe Club holds a race on October 21, 2017, but it is scheduled to be over by noon. This might be a good day to hold the fishing derby.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson that the EC proceed with planning a RP Fishing Derby and will set the date for October 21, 2017, barring any conflict with the Wanda Canoe Club or unforeseen circumstance. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve Quinn will contact Wanda Canoe Club to discuss the fishing derby. Barbara DeLuca will contact Sergio Radossi of NJ Outdoor Alliance. The EC will also plan a fishing day for June 2018.

Another suggestion to think about was a possible recycling regatta. It might be something to think about for the future.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next regular meeting will be June 22, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Green Team meeting. Mark and Leslie Olson advised that they will be away for the June meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca