

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GREEN TEAM MEETING)

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 24, 2017**

Chairman Stephen Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:53 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: Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Gloria Rivera, Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn and Jin Ah Jong. Not Present: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Joseph D'Angeli, Harry Menta, and James Ruff. Non-members Present: John Anlian, Asai MasChang, Katelyn McGirk.

Hearing of Citizens: None.

A motion was made by Stephen Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson, approving the minutes of the July 27, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills: No new bills were submitted.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Old Business:

Fishing Derby: The date has been set for November 4 with a rain date of November 5. It will be held at Riverside Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The EC has commitments from NJ Fish & Wildlife, DEP and the Riverkeepers for assistance and help. We also have the Hudson Fisherman's Association, who will provide help and all fishing tackle and bait as well. Also, any members of the EC that can come and feel comfortable baiting worms should please come along. There will be prizes for young people. Fishing licenses are not required because it is riparian water but you do need to register with the State if you are going to be fishing in the tidal waters. It is very easy to do and there is no charge. It would be great if we had a computer present if we could register people as they arrived.

Steve Quinn said he wanted to discuss getting a banner for this activity. John Anlian said to talk to Alan O'Grady, Donna Rose-McEntee or Mike Monroe at the DPW. The town uses Reidel Signs in Little Ferry. John Anlian also suggested having two signs made so one can be hung at each end of Main Street. Mark Olson said a sign also needs to be made for Earth Day as well but there is time to discuss this. John Anlian said the cost for two signs is approximately \$1,000.00.

Nature Preserve: Steve wanted John Anlian to discuss the status of the trail with the members. John Anlian said the trail should be able to be done before it gets cold. The area needed to be cleared first and that is now complete. As far as an entrance by the high school, there currently is no money for this. The Village did reapply to the county for a Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund. The Village did apply last year but was informed by the County that what RP applied for would take up about 80% of their funds. They suggested RP resubmit next year when there is more money available. RP has resubmitted but will not withdraw the request again. It will accept whatever money is available and do a little more of the project every year. They can reapply every year for funding.

John Anlian said the entrance location will be based on where the pedestrian bridge is eventually located. One of the proposals is that there is an elevator and stairway for the handicapped. John Anlian wants a ramp that will work better. Another proposal is to put in stations and use the level area as an observation deck. It will include bicycles as well but nothing with a motor, no motor vehicles.

The EC was hoping to do some fall plantings. It will all depend on when the trail is completed. The EC will keep this on its list.

The EC is working on a business recycling initiative. The EC was going to make a guidelines package to disburse to RP businesses which would tell businesses what they would need to do to recycle and be more environmentally compatible. The businesses participating would receive a sticker from the EC that

would say something like an RP Environmentally Friendly Business or something to that effect. The EC was just talking about this with the GT and somehow in making this work for a Sustainable Business Registry.

One of the priority actions the GT could do was to create a Green Business Recognition Program. It was created on two levels. One was the GT would review businesses that could be recognized and the other was to locate businesses the State could recognize and that was one the GT accomplished. The first level the GT is working on. To be recognized on the State level there is a list of about 65 different things the business can chose that they have done. They must pick at least five things they have done and one of them should be measurable (financially or recyclable for instance). The business logs onto the State site and ask for an ID and then the State will review it quickly and give a yes or no as to whether the business will be recognized. There are many easy to do things a business can do to qualify.

Steve said if this works as a sustainable action as well, that is all well and good but it is something the EC should proceed with anyway. Mark suggested that it might be good to make it a joint level. The first level could come through the GT and then the business could go to the EC to qualify. Even a small business can qualify by making small changes. John Anlian said it would be something good to put on the website. The EC could list all the businesses that have been recognized with the year they have been recognized. Mark said that by the next time the GT must recertify, these businesses will have to do more than the original five requirements. They will need to do more to requalify. The GT constantly must get new ones coming in. It will be a form of education for everyone.

The EC will follow up with Harry who is drafting something at present like a flyer or packet that would go to businesses that would make them more environmentally friendly about recycling. Mark asked the members what they thought about the GT buying recycling containers for a business. There are some businesses in town that don't have recycling containers. They only have one trash can for customers to use so people are forced to throw recycling in with the trash. The only way to force it would be to make an ordinance. Then there are enforcement problems. It takes a while for people to get used to it. Although businesses know about it, you need to make it easy for them. Perhaps providing the recycling container for the business might make it easier for them to promote recycling. It would help educate the business and the public on the importance of recycling always.

When the business is given the container, it should also be given information on what can and cannot be recycled. Maybe they can put a sign by the container so people are aware of what they can recycle as well. The EC should give them a whole packet – the container and a sign that goes on the wall instructing people what goes in each container. If the business agrees to take the container, they get the packet. If there is a way that the business or EC can document that items are being recycled, the business would then get a nice, colorful sticker on their business window. On the Sustainable Jersey side, there are community challenges and if the GT can demonstrate that it has increased recycling on Main Street, they might be able to use this. Mark said he would like to get everybody on the next block certified so they have a sticker and encourage other businesses to join in so they also have a sticker. There are several new businesses on Main Street that will gladly join in. The GT can help these businesses participate. The GT can get 10 points by doing a bag education program, for instance.

The design of the sticker will be done by Jin Ah Jong and the drafting of the packet will be done by Harry Menta.

The Board of Commissioners has received the letter from the EC about the excessive noise in Overpeck Park. The BOC is using that letter for the basis for another letter to the Parks Dept. and County Executive. The level of noise from the park is ridiculous.

There is one other noise pollution issue that came up during the last meeting. The EC did not vote yet whether to send a memo to the BOC concerning the rerouting of the helicopter route over Ridgefield Park. The routes from Manhattan or Teterboro are riding constantly over the residences in RP.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson that the EC send a memo to the BOC about the noise pollution created by a helicopter route over Ridgefield Park. Roll call vote was taken and all were in favor of this motion.

Mark Olson said that there is also a ten-point task regarding municipal communication strategy. It might be something to strive for in the next certification. John Anlian thinks more information needs to be on the website and the website must be used more.

The next regular meeting will be September 28, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Green Team meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson adjourning the meeting at 9:26 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca