

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 25, 2018**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 bulletin board. Members present were: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Peggy Conversano, Harry Menta (arrived after roll call), Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Jin Ah Jong, Asai Maschang. Not Present: Joseph D'Angeli, Gloria Rivera (excused). Guests Present: Daniele Fede and Diane Mancini from Bogota.

Hearing of Citizens: None.

A motion was made by Stephen Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn, approving the minutes of the November 30, 2017, meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills:

- 1) ANJEC 2018 Dues - \$700.00 was paid and workshops are now included as part of dues.
- 2) PO No. 32532 to Cipriano Enterprises in the amount of \$12,727.64 for deposit for Nature Trail at the Nature Preserve. This will supply the funds for the basic introductory trail into the Nature Preserve.

Correspondence:

1) email responses for Earth Day:

Yes – Public Schools (Dyan Thiemann); HFRA; The Wild Life; Hackensack Riverkeeper; Teaneck Creek Conservancy; Bergen County Mosquito Commission (Warren Staudinger), STC

No - Bergen County Audubon (Marie Longo)

Unable to answer yet – NJ Meadowlands Commission (Brian Aderback)

2) **Mark Rust** – sent contract for May 5. Returned contract has been signed & funds will be encumbered.

3) Letter from Hackensack Riverkeeper thanking EC for donation of \$200

4) Memo from Zoning Board Re: 295 Bergen Turnpike, Case #1528 property converting from restaurant to storage unit – Mark Olson said they are turning it from a luncheonette into a storage facility. It will not change any coverage. It will not affect any rainwater runoff. There is no need for the Environmental Commission to send a letter on this matter.

Mark Olson said he is the Planning Board's representative on the Environmental Commission. They have had some instances where people want to add a small addition to their house and they are going over the total lot coverage allowed. This is nothing new but the EC and Planning Board would like to limit the expansion of impervious coverage. The problem is the zoning regulations don't address this at all. There is an opportunity to do some of those regulations and it is being thought of and worked on right now. He just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention. The PB Chairman feels that it is hard to get people to do things that are not addressed in the zoning. It is being worked on. No action is required from the EC at this time. Mark will let the EC know what is the best time to take action.

Old Business:

Earth Day – has been rescheduled for May 5. There is an issue to discuss that the STC was wondering whether Arbor Day could be held at the Earth Day Celebration.

The STC had a hard time trying to schedule Arbor Day this year. It traditionally is held on April 28 and the person that runs Arbor Day is not available at that time. They tried to move it earlier but there was also a problem with members' availability, which left May 5 as the best date. They would like to know if they could have it at Earth Day. It is a program that lasts about 45 minutes. This year they are doing a poster contest with all of the grammar schools' 4th & 5th grades, with prizes involved, and the high school will be judges.

It could potentially bring more people down to the park. The thing is there would need to be a set time of like 45 minutes where shows and Mark Rust would not be able to perform.

The downside is that it usually takes a little more than 45 minutes and Earth Day is usually scheduled where shows are back-to-back. Last year, it was decided that the 2:30 show was too late and it was going to be moved earlier or eliminated this year. It seems adding another hour event would really make the day packed too fully. A suggestion was made to move Arbor Day to 9:00 a.m. and then they would definitely be done before Earth Day begins. This was satisfactory to everyone.

Arbor Day will not use their banner. They will advertise on the website and the Village message board. The Earth Day banner will be used and the bottom signs will be added for Arbor Day and Green Fair. For the Green Fair, it needs to say carpool to get recertified. The Police Dept. should be asked to send out another Nixle text message to warn residents of the parking congestion and to carpool or walk.

Shows need to be selected for Earth Day -

Last year's shows and schedule:

10:30 a.m. Mad Science – Interactive show

11:30 a.m. Wallaby Tales - Eyes of the Wild – live animal show

12:30 p.m. Northeast New Jersey Beekeeper Association

12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. Dirt on Garbage Booth! Interactive tables, limited amount of seats available

1:30 p.m. Tenaflly Nature Center – ask for different show

2:30 p.m. Snakes -n Scales – live presentation of large reptiles

CONTINUOUS EXHIBIT ALL DAY LONG: BATS, BATS, BATS

Steve will talk to Barbara DeLuca about scheduling and confirming shows.

Nature Trail – Funds have been encumbered from the 2017 budget to begin the Nature Trail.

Green Business Seal – At the past meetings, there was a discussion about having some sort of seal to offer to businesses that the EC feels are exemplary in recycling or practicing green practices. Jin Ah Jong designed a pamphlet but the seal needs to be designed. Katelyn will help out on this since she is working on this for the Green Team. The State gives a seal but the EC could have different standards to earn the EC Green Business Seal. Jin Ah Jong said she would try to make a seal.

Winter Bird Count – cancelled due to extreme temperatures. Linda and Steve went out to make sure no one was waiting. There were no birds or people waiting. There will be a Spring bird count but it will not be the same day as Earth Day.

New Business:

Elections for Chairman and Vice-Chairperson are held in January. Steve is willing to take Chairman again but Leslie would prefer not to take Vice-Chairperson again unless really needed.

A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Peggy Conversano, nominating Steve Quinn as Chairman. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta and seconded by Steve Quinn nominating Leslie Olson as Vice-Chairperson. All were in favor of the motion.

Mark Olson met with three representatives of the DEP about raingardens and how they can they be used with the CSO. The people at the DEP understand why we want to have individual small raingardens on residential property as part of the solution. This is engaging people in the solution, educating people and getting support. The problem is DEP doesn't permit that. It doesn't mean they don't want to help us out. It just means we need to come up with a plan and bring it to them. Our consultant on this project is pretty much willing to do this but we need a little help from people, one or two people. The help needed is organizing a proposal of how we would do it. The current regulation is that any rain garden that would count has to be engineered by a professional, not a practical solution when you are trying to get hundreds of homeowners to put one in. They are very open to trying to figure out a solution but they can't drive the project. They want us to come up with a proposal like if you put in a rain garden, you will get \$200 off on your taxes for instance. If you get 100 of these you fulfilled part of the proposal. If you fall below 100 of these, you will need to come up with some other plan to come up with the difference. The DEP's

definition of a rain garden is an engineered ditch that goes down a minimum of 8 feet. Steve was just thinking of the typical property owner in RP, they wouldn't want to put an 8 ft. hole in their yard. There are other ways to make a rain garden. If RP could get 100 of them put in, it would do more work than an engineered one. It is just the difficulty in assigning value as to how much rain it keeps out of the system. Applying that value to some sort of a tax write-off, etc. They are very willing to hear it out and try to make it happen. They spent three hours talking about how to get this done.

Steve asked Mark if he wanted to chair a committee and come up with a proposal. It needs to be a larger than one-person committee. Steve told him to delegate some responsibilities. Steve said he would help Mark with the project. They will also get help with the Village consultant for the CSO.

Sweatshirts – Members were cold at some of the outdoor events and would like to get sweatshirts. Next meeting there will be further discussion on the design and what type. Everyone is in favor of this.

The next regular meeting will be February 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Harry Menta and seconded by Mark Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca