

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 24, 2018**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:09 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: Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn. Excused: Peggy Conversano, Jin Ah Jong, Carolina Espin, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Katelyn McGirk Gloria Rivera. Absent: Asai Maschang, Joseph D'Angeli. Commissioner Anlian arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Hearing of Citizens: None.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to approve the April 26, 2018, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of Bills: None.

Correspondence:

- 1) letter dated May 17, 2018, from Neglia Engineering Re: Modular Temp Classrooms Project, Borough of Little Ferry
- 2) email from Hackensack Riverkeeper thanking the EC for participating in EarthFest on May 20, 2018

Old Business:

Earth Day Review – Earth Day/Green Fair was held on May 5, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Steve Quinn thanked everyone who came that day to help. In terms of challenges this year, it would be the train blocking the tracks for four hours. Steve checked and there is very little that can be done to correct that or deal with it. Mark Olson said he was thinking of it afterwards and the Village should put a big sign up there reading: in the event of a long train, go to Bogota.

As far as the busing, Leslie Olson said there were only about ten riders this year, all from RP, none from Bogota. She said that maybe next year if there is more publicity about the busing and maybe she changes some locations where the pickups will be made, it might be friendlier. Next year pickups will only be in RP. There were little signs at each stop so riders knew where they would be picked up. The parents that came with their kids were very appreciative.

Carolina Espin and Katelyn McGirk took great pictures throughout the day and Harry Menta put them in a slideshow on the website. Their efforts were very much appreciated.

Starting the day with the STC's Arbor Day ceremony worked out well. The STC has expressed an interest in doing it again. Commissioner Anlian said his only criticism of that is that if you are going to dedicate a tree to somebody, the ceremony should be held by the tree.

The banner might be in rough shape for next year. The EC will get the banner and roll it up for the DPW to store to see if it is presentable for next year. The EC can think about how the banner should be worded for next year if it needs replacing.

EarthFest Review – Steve Quinn said he would once again like to thank the Olsons and Gloria Rivera and John Anlian for coming to EarthFest. Steve thought it was a very good event. It was really good for connecting with other organizations and the county. Mark Olson said he spoke to another EC for quite awhile as did Steve. Leslie said she sent an email to the organizers to see if they scheduled a date for next year yet. They are trying for the same weekend but they can't book until the end of the year. Steve said they were able to get 100 signatures in favor of the Nature Preserve.

RP Nature Preserve – Steve said there is a lot of exciting news about the Nature Preserve and that is one of the reasons that Commissioner Anlian came to the meeting tonight. Commissioner Anlian explained how in 2016 when he put in for the grant, he was asked to withdraw because there wasn't a lot of funds and RP's request would use up 80% of total monies and that he should reapply in 2017. He reapplied in June of last year and they had indicated that they were going to award the grants in December and he had no news and even got the notice to apply for a new grant. He filed the letter of intent in April and then learned a week later that there was a hearing on what they hoped would be the grant awards. RP was listed for the total it put in for - \$200,000.00 for the RP Nature Trail and Boardwalk. It does not mean we definitely got it because they are going to hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bergen County Administration Building, One Bergen County Plaza, Freeholders' Public Meeting, Room 5th Floor, Hackensack, NJ. The EC does not have to appear but it would be a good idea for the membership of the EC and GT to appear. About a month

ago, after the woodland trail was put in at the Nature Trail, some people did come to the Commissioner's meeting to question the work being done. If no one shows up at the Freeholders' Meeting, no one on the EC and GT even have to get up to say anything but it would be good to be there in case supporters of the project need to express their support.

If the hearing goes well, official awards will be August 1 then the Village has two years to get the project done. It is a matching grant. Once the money is awarded, the Village will need to get a freshwater wetland permit from the DEP.

No trespassing signs would be installed. The property would need to be surveyed to make sure signs are installed at the proper boundaries.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to provide funding for a surveyor to provide a survey, with staking, of the northern and western line of the Nature Preserve. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson to provide funding for the no trespassing signs on the boundary lines of the Nature Preserve. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve Quinn has also set up a Nature Preserve Action Event on Saturday, May 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. He encourages as many members of the RP Environmental Commission to join him Saturday morning (9AM till 11AM) at the R.P. Nature Preserve (at the North end of Overpeck Avenue) for a Nature Preserve Action Event where we will be removing tree tubes, marking successfully planted trees, planting wild flowers, and removing invasive plants. He hopes members can join him for a morning of environmental action and fun! Members should bring shears, gloves and wear boots, long sleeves and long pants.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson to purchase a double-sided message board for the entrance to the Nature Preserve to post trail maps, common birds and mammals, explain the final goal of the Nature Preserve, etc. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve Quinn thinks it is time to start talking about the formation of the RP Nature Association that is a separate group from the EC. The RPNA would be folks like the Weed Warriors that the EC formed. It would be folks that maintain the trails, have periodic meetings at the Nature Preserve to pick up litter, that would do the groups from which you would pull to have bird walks and nature walks and things like that to plan those activities. The EC felt that eventually this group could take on a life of its own.

Mark Olson suggested coming up with a core founding sub-committee to start in the EC until the group was ready to go on its own. Steve will work on appointing a sub-committee. He has some people in mind already.

Steve said he was thinking it would be a good idea to order two benches to start off with at the Nature Preserve. A motion was made by Mark Olson and seconded by Leslie Olson to purchase two benches for the Nature Preserve. All were in favor of this motion.

Bird Count – The May 19 bird count was cancelled due to heavy rain. Steve will work on setting up a date for the winter count. Future flyers will mention that the bird count is cancelled in the event of rain.

Update – there was an email from ANJEC that they would like to host a workshop in RP on stream daylighting for CSO towns. Steve spoke with Sheila Baker and said the EC would be open to host an ANJEC event in RP. They were hoping to have it in a town with streams to daylight. She said that was a problem because they were hoping to hold the meeting in a town that has or had a stream and she would get back to Steve. Steve did let her know that RP was anxious and hopeful to host an ANJEC event.

Green Business – Jin Ah Jong did a lovely seal for the Green Business program. Mark Olson asked how or if a business was going to be differentiated between an RP seal and a DEP green business seal, where a business is on the state sustainable business registry. Mark explained that the DEP judges if a business qualifies for the state registry. This is also part of a green action for the State of NJ. The GT had thought about doing a two-level thing. If a business can't make the qualifications for the state registry, it can still qualify for the RP green business seal. If the business is trying, but can't make the five qualifications of the DEP, they can be recognized on a local level.

Mark Olson, Steve Quinn and Harry Menta will work on criteria for a green business. There should be a little bit of an overlap with the criteria of the GT. After the criteria is done, it will be given to all RP businesses. John Anlian thought it would be better to hand deliver it to each business when it is ready. Hand-to-hand contact always works better. The EC

thinks it should be a little larger than the state sticker (look at 222 Main Street to see an example) and should be able to be placed on a window. Steve Quinn will ask Jin Ah Jong to look into production.

Newsletter – Unfortunately, the EC did not get anything in on Earth Day. In the future, members can write an article or at least give the information to Harry Menta to edit. If a member plans on covering a particular submission, please let Steve know. The goal is to have something in every newsletter.

New Business:

Trash containers – About a year ago, a combination recycling and trash lid were put on the containers along Main Street. The DPW does not have the manpower to separate the recyclables and trash. The Police Dept. has also suggested that the containers be switched to clear containers for safety reasons.

Nature Preserve Action Event - Steve Quinn has set up a Nature Preserve Action Event on Saturday, May 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. He encourages as many members of the RP Environmental Commission to join him Saturday morning (9AM till 11AM) at the R.P. Nature Preserve (at the North end of Overpeck Avenue) for a Nature Preserve Action Event where we will be removing tree tubes, marking successfully planted trees, planting wild flowers, and removing invasive plants. He hopes members can join him for a morning of environmental action and fun! Members should bring shears, gloves and wear boots, long sleeves and long pants.

Fall Fishing Derby – Steve Quinn will contact Sergio Radossi to get dates for the high tides for the end of October/early November. It was very successful last year. Steve will also ask Sergio for suggested dates for Earth Day 2019

Wanda Canoe Club – Mark Olson said he spoke with members at Earth Day/Green Fair and they explained they needed to downsize because the building has to come down. They want to put two cargo containers with a roof in between because it is an inexpensive solution. Mark suggested there be racks/holders for Village kayaks. He offered to attend their meeting to discuss this with them.

Newsletter - The EC needs to come up with a schedule for other members to write and Harry Menta will edit. In the future, members can write an article or at least give content to Harry Menta. The goal is to have something in every newsletter. Harry also said that members need to tell him when things should be taken up or down from the website as well.

Harry will edit the submission but he needs members to first write something up and send it to him. Articles can be sent in early to be published at the appropriate time in order to give Harry enough time to do the editing. Harry cannot write all the articles. He needs input from members. The remaining 2018 deadlines are August 17 and October 19.

Mark mentioned that the Bergen County Green Team Hub wants to do the Styrofoam collection in RP. Mark is going to write a letter to the BCUA to ask for funding to haul the polystyrene. RP would be a drop-off location and Wyckoff would be a drop-off location. If the BCUA funds it, it would be a county-wide drop-off. If not, it will only include select, involved communities. This would be scheduled for October 27 as the drop-off date. John Anlian said depending on when it gets scheduled, there could be a table at the September 15 street fair to advertise the event.

The next regular meeting will be June 28, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Leslie Olson adjourning the meeting at 8:09 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca