

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. (THIRD THURSDAY DUE TO HOLIDAY)

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 24, 2019**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: Tammy Lavery, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. Excused: Jin Ah Jong, Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Carolina Espin, Joseph D'Angeli.

Hearing of Citizens: No one was present.

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to approve the September 26, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills: none this month

Correspondence:

- Letter dated 9/2019 from NJCCC and NJ Food Council Re: single use bags and reusable bags (Members should check out the new website <https://choosetoreusenj.com/> for insight on reusable bag activities.)
- OPRA Request Form Re: 2 Bergen Turnpike – the EC does not have copies of any permits for this location.
- Email dated 10/20/19 from Eleni Falcon, a student at Montclair State University, requesting interview Re: Carpe Diem and corporate environmentalism.

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – John Anlian and Steve Quinn met with Boswell Engineering last week. Re: Plans for boardwalk that will cross the wetlands area of the nature trail. Boswell engaged a contractor that provides floating boardwalks. They are also planning a portion of trail to be handicapped accessible as well as interpretive materials for the blind and handicapped. Things are moving along.

Green Business – No new information at this time.

Newsletter – The next deadline is February 14. Members should think of articles for the next newsletter. Articles to be written:

- Leslie Olson – Green Business Program
- Steve Quinn – BYOB (signs will be hung by then)
- Earth Day – schedule date by next meeting and include in next newsletter

Mark Olson suggested that maybe Harry Menta could take charge of the newsletter. He does not need to write all the articles but maybe could suggest articles for members to write. The EC asked Harry to think about if he was willing to take this over. He doesn't need to come up with all of the ideas but maybe he could suggest ideas.

BYOB – Linda and Steve Quinn laminated the signs. Leslie Olson will be in charge of disbursing the signs and routes to members.

Environmental Club at high school – Steve Quinn will talk to Eric Koenig about this. Asai Maschang offered to supervise the club. Commissioner Anlian will be speaking to Eric Koenig about placement of a 6-8 space parking lot on Board of Education property near the entrance to the nature preserve by the high school. Steve will send a letter to Eric Koenig to discuss this

New Business:

Winter Bird Count – The count will be scheduled for December 7. A flyer will be sent to the schools as well as putting it on the website and community message board.

National Recycling Day – It is scheduled for November 15. Members can look at <https://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit/> Mark Olson thought it would be a good idea for members to be down at the recycling center with Sonny Yotka to help out. November 15 could be used as the kick-off for National Recycling Day and then members need to be down to help Sonny

every weekend. This was part of the agreement with the Board of Commissioners in order to have EPS Styrofoam recycling in RP. The EC needs to divide up Saturdays to assist Sonny. Leslie Olson was recently there and it is flabbergasting how much traffic is there on the weekends. The EC needs to help educate the public on what can be recycled. Leslie said she will write up something about what can and can't be recycle for the next newsletter. All available members should come to the recycling center on National Recycling Day (November 15) from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Leslie will let Donna and Alan know members will be there.

The EC received a quote for the BYOB reusable bag. There are no more left. 1,000 bags cost \$1.85 each for a total of \$1,850.00 plus shipping. Mark Olson said that the GT would offer to pay for the bags since it has money available and the EC has large expenses this year. The Green Team will be added to the bag design.

The reusable straws were also very popular and there are very few left. The EC will order a new supply of straws.

There was a sign-up at the street fair for the proposed RP Nature Association. The EC will put together a list of all that signed up so a group e-mail can be made up to keep these people informed on the Nature Preserve. They might want to help in the future on some of the activities. A test email will be sent to this group to make sure the email address is correct.

The next regular meeting will be November 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. (third Thursday due to holiday)

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Mark Olson adjourning the meeting at 7:37 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca