

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
September 26, 2019**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:13 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 (arrived after roll call), Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta. Excused: Jin Ah Jong, Leslie Olson, Mark Olson, Asai Maschang, Gloria Rivera. Absent: Peggy Conversano, Carolina Espin, Joseph D'Angeli.

Hearing of Citizens: No one was present.

A motion was made by Stephen Quinn and seconded by Guillermo Lopez-Acosta to approve the May 23, 2019, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion. There were no meetings in June (due to GT conflict), July and August.

Payment of Bills:

- PO 37998 - \$ 45.00 – Reidel Sign Co. – Canoe & Kayak Sign Rack
- PO 37999 - \$ 50.00 – RP Arts Association – Full page ad in Summer Fest Program
- PO 38054 - \$ 153.76 – Mark Olson – Supplies for Canoe & Kayak Rack
- PO 38056 - \$ 223.84 – Behnke's Paramus Building Supply – Wood for Canoe & Kayak rack
- PO 38165 - \$ 36.61 – Barbara DeLuca – Ice Cream Party Prizes for Earth Day
- PO 38723 - \$1,235.00 – Riedel Sign Co. Inc. – Signs for Nature Preserve
- PO 38979 - \$ 25.00 – JC Promotions, Inc. – Registration fee for Street Fair 9/12/19

Correspondence:

- Copy of letter dated 5/29/19 to Mayor Fosdick from Linda Doherty, President of NJ Food Council Re: Encouraging Use of Reusable Bags in NJ
- Copy of Resolution 2019-060 dated 6/20/19 encouraging residents to use re-usable, cloth type, shopping bags
- Invitation to Aging-Friendly Communities Conversation scheduled for 6/26/19 @ Hasbrouck Heights Library
- Copy of letter dated 6/26/19 from Mayor Fosdick to James Koth, Director of Bergen County Dept. of Parks Re: Overpeck County Park
- Copy of letter dated 7/2/19 to Commissioner Anlian from Kenneth J. Job, Engineer Re: Surveying Services @ Nature Preserve
- Email dated 7/9/11 to Environmental Commission from Michael Phelan, Government & Community Relations Re: Port Authority Bus Terminal Replacement Project Open House on 7/10/19
- Emailed dated 7/11/19 from Joseph D'Angeli Re: Proposed Bat Walk at Batstock scheduled for 9/20-22/19. Joe would like to schedule another batwalk in RP but it may be too late now.
- Memo from Zoning Board - Case 1549 241-243 Teaneck Road for an application for a Use Variance to convert the first-floor business to two apartments, changing the use from business with two apartments to four family residence, hearing scheduled for 8/9/19, comments due no later than 8/9/19
- Zoning Board Agenda for 8/20/19 meeting

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – All ten signs marking the boundaries of the western border of the nature preserve as well as boundaries of property were installed by the DPW. On October 17, 2019, John Anlian and Steve Quinn will meet with Boswell Engineering to review the application for wetlands permit for nature preserve and building of trail/boardwalk in nature preserve. Work is progressing.

The Franciscos were invited to discuss their property on Teaneck Road after mentioning at the RP Street Fair that they would be interested in either selling or donating their property to become part of the Nature Preserve. They have elected to wait and discuss plans with the greater group of private owners that still own property at the northern end of what we hope will become the nature preserve.

The Nature Trail is still in the planning stage. Boswell is now spec'ing the materials and details for the nature trail.

Green Business – Leslie Olson is not here to give an update. When she returns, we'll get an update.

Newsletter – The next deadline is October 18. Members should think of articles for the next newsletter. Articles to be written:

- Leslie Olson – Green Business Program
- Steve Quinn – BYOB

BYOB – Copies will be made and laminated. Members will be assigned a block to hang the signs at local businesses, which will be handed out at the October 24 meeting. If members are not at the meeting, they can pick their signs up from Steve Quinn.

Environmental Club at high school – Steve Quinn will talk to Eric Koenig about this. Asai Maschang offered to supervise the club.

New Business:

National Recycling Day – It is scheduled for November 15. Barbara DeLuca has gathered crayons from Lincoln and Grant School to send to the Crayon Initiative. Members should go online to <https://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit/> or a similar site to see if there is any activity the EC can participate in as part of National Recycling Day. Members can email an idea they have so there is time to make preparations for November 15.

Linda Quinn said the girl scouts really want to do a town wide clean-up day for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this year. The EC already has a reminder set for January to get on Shop-Rite's list for free clean-up supplies. The EC will assist the girl scouts in any way.

A member had passed by the car wash located at the foot of Mt. Vernon Street and saw a worker dumping a large wheeled orange bucket in the sewer next to the property. Steve Quinn will contact the DPW to see if they can speak to the business owner.

There was an article published in The Record on September 26 (<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/environment/2019/09/26/overpeck-creek-overrun-aquatic-weeds-disrupting-kayakers-and-fish/2385564001/>) that the county is considering applying a herbicide treatment to all of Overpeck Creek to kill aquatic vegetation. One would hope it is well researched and properly applied because herbicides do have very negative side effects to all the birds, ducks and wildlife. The EC is not sure, at this point, if it would be appropriate to say something but members should be alerted to keep watching for what they decide.

Janet Malool asked if anything could be done about the sound level of Overpeck Park. She wondered if there was a telephone number or email to contact about the sound level. It is extremely loud at times and appears to be louder than the allowable decibel level. Janet said there is an app that Mark Olson had used during the street fair to make sure it did not violate any decibel levels. The EC thinks it is important that word gets to the Commissioners that this is disruptive to the quality of life of residents.

The next regular meeting will be October 24, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn adjourning the meeting at 7:40 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca