

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. – VIA ZOOM

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 9, 2021**

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:06 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, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Lisa Rehm. Excused: Leslie Olson. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Matt Graves.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Tammy Lavery to approve the November 20, 2020, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills:

PO 43810 – ANJEC – \$475.00 – 2021 ANJEC Dues

Correspondence:

- Email dated 12/7/20 from PK Environmental Re: NJDEP Letter of Interpretation Line Verification, 64 Challenger Road
 - This lot is directly across from the movie theater. There is a very large parking lot but in the back of that parking lot there is open space and undeveloped fill from a past garbage dump. PK Environmental is requesting NJDEP verify the tidal areas.
- Letter dated 12/14/20 from PSE&G Re: Application for Extension of a Freshwater Wetlands Permit Number 1
 - This is just an extension of an older permit previously granted. The EC did not approve nor contest PSE&G's intent to do that work.
- Link to 10 Uses for an Old Christmas Tree from Tammy Lavery – <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/green-home/21195273/10-uses-for-your-old-christmas-tree>
- Invitation dated 12/28/20 from RP Arts Association to Mural Celebration on 1/2/21
- Info on BCAS Celebrate Save the Eagles Day with a Virtual Program on AI & Alice Zoom on 1/10/21
- Email dated 1/15/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 1/13/21
- Copy of EC appointments and Oath of Office
 - Steve Quinn welcomed the appointment of two new members, Lisa Rehm and Matthew Graves
- Email dated 1/27/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 1/27/21
- Info on 1/27/21 Webinar - [Online Event: "Introduction to Citizen Science," with a focus on retirees](#)
- Copy dated 1/27/21 of Freshwater Wetlands and Floor Hazard Application Re: Challenger 60, LLC.
 - That property is the property right next to the parking lot discussed earlier. They are applying to develop a large multi-residential unit on that site and are applying for a permit for coverage and also it is technically a wetlands water area because it was originally a garbage fill. It is low in nature and collects water, not a true wetlands. Members should feel free to look at the site. It is right north of the entrance ramp on 95; the very first lot with a large parking lot on it. Steve feels it is a past landfill that gathers water. It is zoned for what is proposed to be built on it, which is a large multi-unit apartment building. It is kind of an odd place for it and that discussion has come up during discussion with the PB. It is a rather isolated area for a site like that. It is residential but will also include retail and a restaurant on the base floor. The PB is currently working on the current Master Plan and there is concern with trying to come up with ways to connect that property to the Village proper so that it doesn't become its own separate RP.
- Info on gardening program at library scheduled for 3/3/21
- Email dated 2/3/21 from ANJEC Re: 2021 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Virtual Sessions Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. & Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 - Steve Quinn recommends members participate in them. They are on varied topics and are helpful.
- Email dated 2/5/21 from ANJEC Re: Gov. Murphy Signs New Climate Change Bill
 - How EC can contribute information regarding their own particular concerns regarding climate change issues, especially with regard to flooding. Members should note this session and will discuss at a future meeting to respond to BOC and PB regarding things the EC sees as issues that should be noted with the state regarding the effects of climate change, especially with regard to water tables and open space

- Email dated 2/8/21 from Veronica Hann, STC, Re: Scholarship Programs for College Students or Professionals in the Arboriculture Industry
- Resignation dated 2/8/21 from Jin Ah Jong – no longer a RP resident

Old Business:

RP Nature Preserve/Nature Trail – Steve Quinn did get some information from Mayor Anlian regarding the status of Village funds for proceeding with the trail and boardwalk in the Nature Preserve. We, of course, have the funding from the county to proceed but we must match that funding. We have approximately \$200,000 from the county and the town is going to match that. The budget for the upcoming year is being set and once that budget is finalized, the matching funds will be subtracted from that and our work on the nature trail and on the boardwalk can continue.

Steve has gotten started on planning for the educational panels that will be displayed all along the trail and along the boardwalk. In the package, there is funding for 15 interpretive panels. Those subjects for the panels can vary from discussions on the various plants and animals that are found in the nature preserve; things like preserving wetlands and wetlands function and how they help us and service they provide; everything from the various biomes and habitats that occur in the nature preserve. Steve is coming up with a list of those and starting to come up with some texts but if anyone has any ideas for subjects anything from monarch butterfly migration to bird migration, anything members would like to see covered, considering that the trail will move in three locations through wetlands, open fields and then into forested area. It will be three distinct biomes so please give some thought and send Steve any ideas you might have for subject matters for those educational panels.

Green Business – Leslie Olson has been spearheading the effort but it has been stalled with the covid issues because it involves interacting with the local businesses and she has not been able to do that.

BYOB – The same issues are stalling progress with the BYOB signs in the stores. We have not moved forward with that. Steve will ask Leslie to see if the EC can somehow move forward with that. Lisa Rehm said she is comfortable with masking up and going in the stores. Steve will let Leslie know she is ready and available.

Earth Day 2021 – The high tide on May 1, 2021, is 2:00 p.m. That is the tentative date for Earth Day. The Hackensack Riverkeeper said they are available. Steve Quinn did contact the Hudson River Fisherman's Association about the possibility of having their members conduct a fishing derby on Earth Day, but they haven't responded yet. Plans are mostly on hold for everyone due to the coronavirus issues. The EC will look to Commissioner Gerken for some sort of direction as to who and when the decision will be made as to whether or not Earth Day can be held this year. Mark Rust said he is available if Earth Day takes place.

The EC sent a letter on 12/4/20 to ZB Re: Case 1561 291 & 295 Main Street (conversion of 2 lots into 1 house). The main area of concern was there is a historically large elm tree on those two lots and the EC made an appeal to the ZB that if they granted permission to have that building built on those two lots that every effort be made to preserve that elm.

New Business:

Commissioner Olson contacted Steve Quinn to see if the EC would like to take over the administration of the NJ Clean Communities Grant monies. The NJ Clean Communities Program is monies that is put aside for towns to conduct litter clean-ups in their parks, along their streets, in open space area. There is funding available for supplies and equipment necessary to do that. There are also monies available to reward organizations that assist with the clean-ups as an expression of participation for their hard work. Steve thought this was a good thing because the EC could then target parks and other areas of the town and have different organizations like scouting groups conduct clean-ups, or other organizations, and then be able to reward them with funding as well as be able to purchase all the necessary items needed for the clean-ups. All members felt this would be a good endeavor.

The EC would need to get back-up info on how these funds were used in the past. Seeing the paperwork needed on how to apply for this again would be helpful. The EC is confident the DPW will provide the necessary support needed to learn how to apply for the grant as well as assistance in how to do the necessary back-up paperwork in reporting how the funds were used.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn, that the EC accept the administration of the NJ Clean Communities grant monies and Steve will communicate with Commissioner Olson to that effect. All were in favor of this motion.

MEETING DATES SET FOR 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

ALL MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. PREVAILING TIME ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE CIVIC CENTER, 159 MAIN STREET, THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, UNLESS POSTED OTHERWISE (when meetings are held in person). Until further notice, meetings will be conducted by zoom.

**JANUARY 12
FEBRUARY 9
MARCH 9
APRIL 13**

**MAY 11
JUNE 8
JULY 13 - IF NECESSARY
AUGUST 10 - IF NECESSARY**

**SEPTEMBER 14
OCTOBER 12
NOVEMBER 9
DECEMBER – NO MEETING**

Elections:

A motion was made by Linda Quinn and seconded by Tammy Lavery nominating Steve Quinn as Chairman. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Lisa Rehm and seconded by Tammy Lavery nominating Leslie Olson as Vice-Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

The next regular meeting will be March 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn adjourning the meeting at 7:36 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner William Gerken