

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, June 13, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
May 9, 2023**

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 Laverty, Steve Quinn, Lisa Rehm, Matt Graves, Nicole Terrarosa. Excused: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Linda Quinn. Commissioner William Gerken was also present at the meeting.

**Hearing of Citizens:** None present.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Matt Graves to accept the April 4, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of Bills:**

PO#52933 - \$150.00 – Reidel Sign Co – Earth Day Banner Update  
PO#52935 - \$700.00 – Mark Rust – Music for Earth Day  
PO#52936 - \$535.00 – Mad Science – Earth Day Show  
PO#52937 - \$350.00 – Snakes N Scales, LLC – Earth Day Show  
PO#52938 - \$838.00 – Tenaflly Nature Center – Earth Day Show & Table  
PO#52939 - \$250.00 – Wild Life – Earth Day Show  
PO#52940 - \$250.00 – Hudson River Fishermen's Association – Fishing at Earth Day  
PO#52942 - \$450.00 – Alexandrina Mavrianos – Earth Day Facepainting  
PO#52943 - \$250.00 – Hackensack Riverkeeper – Boat for Earth Day  
PO#53011 - \$500.00 – Sergios Ice Cream Inc. – Ice Cream for Earth Day  
PO#53053 - \$ 40.92 – Amazon Capital Services – Gold Spray Paint  
PO#53144 - \$391.15 – Blue Dog Graphics – Invitations, Postage for Nature Preserve Opening

**Discussion:**

- Steve Quinn advised that the EC is extremely fortunate to get its first Environmental Field Technician to work at the Nature Preserve from May 8 – August 4. Stacey Fernandez will report to Steve and work 7 hours per day Monday-Friday. He has told her she can alter her hours to accommodate the heat and sun in the summer. He has asked the Social Media Manager and Harry Menta to help the EC highlight her work. Stacey is working as an intern as part of an internship at Stockton University.

**Correspondence:**

- Email dated 4/3/23 from SRP Chair Leslie Olson Re: Update: Plastic Bag and Film in RP
- OPRA request dated 4/5/23 Re: 16-18 Industrial Avenue – replied EC does not have any records on properties.
- Email dated 5/4/23 from Flo Muller Re: STC at Earth Day
- Email dated 5/5/23 from Candace Romba Re: Earth Day – school has projects to display.
- Memo from Tara O-Grady – Newsletter deadline is May 24

**Old Business:**

- Newsletter – articles for summer newsletter – deadline in mid-May 25
  - SQ – Nature Preserve
  - Lisa Rehm -balcony plants
  - Checklist for mosquitoes
  - Harry Menta – Earth Day & Nature Preserve Grand Opening
  - SQ – leaf blowers (if he has time)
  - Send in a short article and photos of the bat houses and tree planting.
- Every Day is Earth Day 2023 – May 20, 2023
  - Yes: Mad Science; Snakes n Scales, Tenaflly Nature, Bats, Bats, Bats; Mark Rust; Candee Rumba (Public Schools), Troop 3, HRFA, Face painter, Beekeeper, Archery Clinic, Community Gardens, DPW,

SRP, Mosquito Control, Master Gardeners, RP Arts Association, Neighborhood Compost Team, Toyota will bring an EV or hybrid, Flat Rock Brook, Hackensack Meridian, Spirited Moon (children's author), Alexis Naturals (herbal medicine cabinet), Monarch Butterfly Pledge, Food & Water Watch Coalition, Key Club, Green Solar, Mr. Softee, Veolia, Shade Tree Commission, Bogota, Daisy Troop

- No response/unsure: Cub Scout Pack #4, Wanda Canoe Club, NJ Butterfly Club, BCUA
- Earth Day banner – updated for this year but Reidel says it is in poor condition and should get a new one.
- Will have a trivia game for kids and adults – highest points eligible for prize. Will pick up a few prizes like bird whistle, binoculars, etc. Adults could get an NP hat or t-shirt. Key Club will help with contest.
- Members should meet at Riverfront Park at 8:30 a.m. to help with set-up. (Harry Menta unavailable.)
- Key Club members will have their own table and will also help out at the event. Will use some students as Mr. Softee Police to make sure it's only one ice cream per person up to \$500. Can also help with Riverkeeper's eco-cruises if needed.
- Traffic problem suggestion – use one or two adults. Three areas: 1) the event area that would be parked from start to finish, 2) the long-term staying and they may be stuck for a while in our lot. And then 3) the ones that are running out can park in front of the salt silo.
- Mayor Anlian to do robocall and also have text, emails sent day before to remind people of event and suggest carpooling, walking, or biking to event.
- Will order bagels for breakfast from Java Day and sandwiches from IGA.
- Nature Walk – April 22 at Nature Preserve 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. review.
  - About 25 people attended, went very well.
  - May 27 will be the next nature walk because there are new things in bloom now.
- Eagles – SQ received a call from Don Torino, the president of the Bergen County Audubon Society, that there have been trespassers onto the old Skymark property who have been photographing and shooting video of the nesting. Bald Eagles directly under the nest and, as a result, harassing the nesting birds. This is in violation of both State and Federal law. No one, by law, should be within 1,000 feet of an active Bald Eagles nest. Kevin Avery and Jim Macaluso installed the signs with Don Torino since Steve was sick.

#### **Nature Preserve:**

- 5/25 will be date of next Nature Walk
- Commissioner Gerken working on directional signs to Nature Preserve at Teaneck Road & East Grand Avenue
- Commissioner Gerken, Mayor Anlian and Steve Quinn spoke with a mosquito entomologist from the county. They agreed to allow helicopter spraying with larvicide, which just targets mosquitoes and nothing else due to diseases such as West Nile Virus.
- June 3 – ribbon cutting ceremony.
  - EC can use the parking lot.
  - Ask Mark Olson if EC can use his sandwich signs on opening day to help visitors locate Nature Preserve
  - Ordering boxed water
  - Commissioner Gerken has hedge clippers for the cutting.
  - Commissioner Gerken has said he could get the ribbon for the ceremony- check with Dayle if necessary.
  - Podium, sound system, chairs – will notify DPW.
  - Invitations mailed. Invitations to the public has been posted on social media – Village Facebook and Instagram. Flyers will be distributed in schools. Posted on Eventbrite as well.
  - Program for event – Steve will speak to Harry Menta and then Mayor Anlian, who will be the MC.
  - Teddy Roosevelt cutout has arrived.
  - DPW event form will be submitted.
  - EC will confirm that Don Torino is aware anyone in the BCAS can attend the grand opening.

#### **New Business:**

- **Volunteer Day at Nature Preserve:**  
 Certain aspects of Stacey's job really demands more than one person. The EC will ask the Social Media Manager to post that Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. will be volunteer day. Steve will check with Mayor Anlian if Thursdays should be only over age 18 or not so Stacey does not have the responsibility of supervising students. Steve will review the post before it goes up.
- There is a large Great Egret and Snowy Egret (big white herons) roost (a few dozen birds) on the banks of the Overpeck Creek on the Samsung property. Samsung has, evidently, been cutting the trees and threatening the birds - possibly unknowingly. Egrets are not endangered species, so we cannot stop them

through State or Federal Law, so SQ thought a polite and thoughtful request and appeal to their environmental sensibilities might be the best way to proceed. The letter was sent.

- Vote taken to send letter to Samsung.
  - Yes votes from voting members: Tammy, Harry, Linda, Steve, Lisa. - quorum  
Yes also from Leslie & Nicole.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Tammy Laverty adjourning the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara DeLuca*

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner William Gerken

**Important Dates to Keep in Mind:**

**Saturday, May 20 - Earth Day Celebration 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - set up starts at 8:30 a.m.**

**Saturday, May 27 - Nature Walk at Nature Preserve – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, June 3 - Ribbon Cutting ceremony at Nature Preserve @ 10:00 a.m.**