

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
April 13, 2021

Chairman Steve Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Linda Quinn, Steve Quinn, Lisa Rehm, Matthew Graves. Excused: Leslie Olson. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta.

Hearing of Citizens: None present. Nicole Terrarosa and Gianna Terrarosa were present as guests.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Harry Menta to approve the March 9, 2021, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills:

- PO 44810 — BSA Troop #3 — \$300 — Grab & Go Food for Earth Day 5/1/21
- PO 44811 — Tenaflly Nature Center - \$673.00 — 2 Earth Day shows 5/1/21
- PO 44812 — Mark Rust - \$700.00 — Music for Earth Day 5/1/21
- PO 44839 — Mad Science - \$450.00 — Fire & Ice Show for Earth Day 5/1/21
- PO 44840 — Amazon Capital Services — \$239.46 — PPE Supplies for Earth Day 5/1/21

Correspondence:

- Email dated 3/10/21 from Lt. Brian Hippe advising that the PD cannot collect expired medication at Earth Day
- Email dated 3/10/21 from Karen Riede advising that Rutgers has restricted activities involving Master Gardeners until 3/31/21. She will update when she knows more.
- Email dated 3/11/21 from ANJEC Re: Stormwater Regulations Update
- Email dated 3/11/21 from Leslie Olson Re: Paper Shredding Event — April 24
- Email dated 3/12/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 3/11/21
- Email dated 3/15/21 from Principal Jason Cata, Roosevelt School Re: Earth Day — 3 schools will participate
- Email dated 3/17/21 from Sofia Lopa Re: Clean Energy to Bergen County 3/25/21 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Email dated 3/17/21 from ANJEC Re: Acting Locally to Protect Green Space 3/22/21 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Email dated 3/23/21 from ANJEC Re: Social Media Engagement for Environmental Commissions 4/8 @ 12pm
 - Lisa Rehm said she attended this webinar and it was very good and informative. It showed tools to use and was very interesting. It showed things such as how to monitor and post with environmental commissions with lots of examples, i.e., Red Bank. Also showed what tools to use to develop websites.
- Email dated 3/24/21 from ANJEC Re: Environmental News Digest 3/24/21
- Email dated 3/25/21 from Asai Maschang — Re: Hiatus in Participation
 - Asai will be asked if she would like to be an Associate as she was knowledgeable when available.
- Email dated 3/30/21 from ANJEC Re: 2021 Virtual Earth Day Celebration & Fair 4/22/21 @ 11:00 a.m.
- Email dated 3/30/21 from Jessica Mukhija Re: Ban on Fracking
 - Email will be resent for any interested members to pursue.
- Email dated 3/31/21 from Commissioner Olson Re: NNJ Sustainable Cities, Towns & Communities: RP
 - Steve said the SJ funds that RP receives are administrated by the DPW, who direct those funds to the EC when needed for an activity since there are many opportunities for groups to do various cleanups. May also be opportunities to use some of the funds in the nature preserve. If any members have any ideas for projects that could utilize NJ Clean Community funds, they should bring them up at meetings and the EC can utilize these funds. The GT is interested in doing a community clean-up day with the EC as they can get SJ points as long as they provide education with the clean-up.
- Email dated 4/03/21 from Commissioner Gerken Re: Earth Day 2021
 - The EC will reach out to Commissioner Gerken for clarification in the event of rain.
- Email dated 4/05/21 from Hugh Carola Re: Confirming Earth Day 2021
- Email dated 4/06/21 from ANJEC Re: Turning a Liability into an Asset: Remediating & Redeveloping Brownfields in NJ 5/6/21 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Email dated 4/07/21 from Karen Riede Re: Earth Day — Cannot attend as all in-person activities for Master Gardeners suspended until 4/30

- Email dated 4/07/21 from ZB Re: Case #1559 – 78 Mt. Vernon Street – application to develop nine residential units with two business units. Comments due 5/1/21.
 - On an unrelated topic, the PB is reviewing aspects of how RP might make the town more accessible and friendly to an aging community. This might be an opportunity for the town to provide housing for senior citizens and elderly people by providing them with close proximity to the Main Street shopping and things like that. If members have any thoughts regarding this case, please contact Francine at the ZB and she will have the drawings for the application and show you the location for these residential units will be developed if approved.
- Email dated 4/07/21 from NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Re: Beautify Your Yard This Spring – free tree saplings
- Email dated 4/7/21 from ANJEC Re: ANJEC News Environmental News Digest 4/7/21

Old Business:

Green Business – Leslie Olson has been unable to attend the last few meetings due to a conflict. Steve Quinn will get the status from her.

BYOB – Leslie Olson turned over the laminated signs to Steve, who will turn them over to Lisa at Earth Day.

Earth Day 2021 – Earth Day is scheduled for May 1, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The EC needs as many members as possible. We need as many members as can stay however long possible. It is not a difficult project to help out with. Set up will begin at 9:00 a.m.

There are various tasks to help out with. One of the tasks we always need help with is someone to be present at the table for the Hackensack Riverkeeper to register people who want to go for boat rides. We have to maintain a list for each boat ride to make sure there is a limited number of people within the boat so they can be 6-ft distance from one another when riding. There is some help that we need to assist with the HRFA. They will be conducting a fishing derby which is very popular with families and children. We have caught some absolutely amazing fish during these events and can always use help baiting hooks or handing out fishing equipment or registering who catches what since we often hand out prizes at the end of the event. Also, there are events during the day that need to be announced such as the shows. There are lots of fun events during the day. There are tables for the EC and other groups. There are scanners available to take temperatures during the day so a volunteer will be needed for that. There are extra masks, Lysol spray, wipes and hand sanitizer.

The Earth Day/Green Fair flyer will be sent to all members. On the back are alternate directions in case the railroad track is blocked. Steve said the village has developed an archery range in that area and it would be wonderful to have that area available to show off this new program. The Board of Rec will be invited to demonstrate the archery program.

New Business:

Gianna Terrarosa has been working on a pollinator garden as her Gold Award project for the Girl Scouts by the high school and would like to have a sign that indicates the garden will soon be there. Reidel Signs will probably design the sign.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Linda Quinn that the EC provide the funds for the design and production of the sign announcing that coming soon will be the pollinator garden done in the Girl Scout's colors of green, beige and gold.

A roll call vote was taken and the results are as follows:

MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Tammy Lavery	X			
G. Lopez-Acosta				X
Harry Menta	X			
Leslie Olson				X
Linda Quinn	X			
Stephen Quinn	X			
Lisa Rehm	X			
Matthew Graves	X			
Alternate #1				
Gloria Rivera				X
Alternate #2				

Eagle Preserve Letter:

Steve Quinn serves on the Planning Board. At the last meeting there was a real interest in getting assurance from Fish & Wildlife Service and NJDF&W that the eagle preserve that was during the Skymark development period will be grandfathered and carried over to any future development. The PB members are in full support of maintaining this idea of a RP Eagle Preserve, which is 11 acres and consists of 5 acres of wetlands, which cannot be touched due to the Wetlands Act. The US Fish & Wildlife Service in response to a proposal that was first initiated by the EC and then adopted by Skymark and was then sent to the US Fish & Wildlife Service. They approved it but now Skymark is no longer in the picture and have gone bankrupt. They are no longer a principal developer for the property.

The NJ Transit, which is a division of the NJ Dept. of Transportation has condemned a part of the property and taken it over with the plan of developing a commuter bus station to serve all of the buses that serve Bergen County, which is quite a big undertaking. We do not know for certain whether that 11 acreage are still assured protection for the nesting pair of bald eagles that are on the southern end of that property. The PB has asked the EC to draft a letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the NJ Dept. of Fish & Wildlife asking assurance that that area will remain in protection and be grandfathered to any future development on that parcel of land, which is a pretty incredible thing for the town of RP to do.

Some towns look at any open area and develop it to create rateables. This town, however, and its governing body and the volunteer Boards that are responsible for managing developments insist that this area be preserved for the eagles.

A motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Matthew Graves that the EC does draft a letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and to the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Service to inquire and urge for the preservation of that area in southern RP.

A roll call vote was taken and the results are as follows:

MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Tammy Lavery	X			
G. Lopez-Acosta				X
Harry Menta	X			
Leslie Olson				X
Linda Quinn	X			
Stephen Quinn	X			
Lisa Rehm	X			
Matthew Graves Alternate #1	X			
Gloria Rivera Alternate #2				X

Steve Quinn will draft the letter and circulate to the EC for comments.

BYOB Sign – Steve will turn over the laminated signs to Lisa to be delivered to individual businesses.

Nature Preserve Update – Steve does have news from Mayor Anlian that at last Commissioner's meeting, the BOC did award the contract to the lowest bidder for the construction of the trail and boardwalk through the Nature Preserve. Construction should start soon. The EC will be informed of pre-construction meeting where they will meet the contractors and discuss the plan for proceeding. The projected completion date hopefully, barring whether and such, will be next fall for the Nature Preserve.

Harry Menta asked if there was a rendering of the Nature Preserve for the website. Steve will send Harry his rendering as well as Boswell's drawing.

Steve said that HRFA would like a copy of any flyer mentioning their involvement in Earth Day. It will be forwarded to them.

Tammy Lavery said the EC should try to keep our eyes open about electric buses since we will have the bus station in our town. The goal is to switch to electric so the EC should keep an eye on this to support this since the bus station will be in our town. Steve said the property that has now been condemned and they are occupying, the property immediately adjacent to the Overpeck Creek, is the property they presently own. The property they really need and want is the other half of the property adjacent to the NJ turnpike, which is a private owner they would have to deal with. It is not a public owner so they cannot condemn it like the RP property. The EC should really keep an eye on this and monitor what is going on at the property, especially as it relates to the eagle's nest.

Steve said that May 9 is a big day for the World Series of birding and any member can participate in that.

Steve will reach out to Commissioner Gerken to see if moving inside in case of rain will affect any covid guidelines and ask him for clarification as to covid protocols in the event of rain.

The next regular meeting will be May 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Quinn and seconded by Lisa Rehm adjourning the meeting at 8:02 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner William Gerken

Info for May11 meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75999621083?pwd=UIRpRXYxTU5tYUZCY0RSV0hab1J2QT09>

Meeting ID: 759 9962 1083

Passcode: 3PsA19