

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES OF THE RP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 12, 2021 VIA ZOOM**

Vice-Chair Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:08 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, Leslie Olson, Lisa Rehm, Matt Graves. Excused: Linda Quinn, Stephen Quinn. Absent: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Gloria Rivera. Nicole Terrarosa and Gianna Terrarosa were present as guests.

Hearing of Citizens:

A motion was made by Matt Graves and seconded by Tammy Lavery to approve the September 14, 2021, meeting minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of Bills: None

Correspondence:

- Email dated 10/8/21 from PB & ZB Re: Application before PB from Hampshire Properties to build a warehouse in the Redevelopment area located on the south side of the Bogota Golf site and before Route 80
Re: Application before ZB from Westphal Waste Services to operate a waste service business at 100 Industrial Avenue

Comments due no later than 10/14/21

Old Business:

Maywood Green Fair: The GT/EC will have a table there. Matt Graves said he would help Leslie at the table. Set up will be at 10:00 a.m. The fair will run from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Food trucks will be there as well. Anyone wishing to stop by the table is welcome.

Street Fair: The street fair is scheduled for October 30. If members have not signed up yet to sit at the table, they are encouraged to please sign up for the open shifts. The EC will have a table with canopy as well as displays. There will be displays about the RP Nature Preserve. The EC will be promoting the creation of a volunteer RP Nature Association that will organize events and programs for the nature preserve, as well as performing needed tasks in the nature preserve such as maintaining trails, picking up litter, removing invasive plants, planting new native plants, along with guiding visitors to the nature preserve. A sign-up for the Nature Preserve will be at the table. The GT will also have a display about proper PPE disposal.

Tammy Lavery said she would also like to highlight neonicotinoids at the EC table. She said that ANJEC & National Defense Resource Council have a webinar on pesticides called neonicotinoids. They can kill or endanger bees, birds, aquatic life and humans. NJ legislation Assembly bill 2070 or, Senate bill 1016 would curb neonic pesticide use in NJ in order to protect pollinators, birds, agriculture, and the environment. During the Main St. Fair, Tammy thinks the EC should encourage folks to contact their representatives to say YES to the bill. She believes it will be up for a vote in November. She will be creating some handouts/info to have at the EC table during the fair. Tammy said she works that day and will not be there to advocate in person until later in the day. So as Leslie suggested at our meeting, here's some info for anyone that wants to be aware and advocate on behalf of wildlife, humans, and the environment.

You tube info: 1st half hour info, 2nd half q&a <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBOY6mwaJ3I>

New Business:

Nature Preserve Update: Nothing new to report at this time. Steve Quinn asked that the EC take a vote to purchase native meadow plant seeds from Ernst Seeds in Pennsylvania to be sown in the prepared planting beds in the nature preserve. We will order seeds for native plants that will benefit native pollinators, butterflies, and birds. Please allow for approx. 2 - 3 thousand dollars for this purpose.

Steve Quinn would also encourage those EC members who would like to join, to help in planting these seed beds this fall, to prevent invasive plants from taking hold to these prepared beds in the nature preserve.

Roll call vote results are as follows:

Tammy Lavery	YES
Guillermo Lopez-Acosta	ABSENT
Harry Menta	ABSENT
Leslie Olson Vice-Chairperson	YES
Linda Quinn	ABSENT
Stephen Quinn Chairman	ABSENT
Lisa Rehm	YES
ALTERNATE MEMBERS:	
Matthew Graves	YES
Gloria Rivera	ABSENT

Village Clean-Up Day: For this clean-up project this year, Leslie asked Nicole Terrarosa to coordinate with Giselle Holloway and Janet Malool who are working on the Village parks and are looking for volunteers. Nicole will confirm available dates with the Girl Scouts and then contact Giselle and Janet to make all necessary arrangements, keeping the Environmental Commission in the loop. At the same time, Nicole will try to schedule something in 2022 closer to Earth Day that can involve participation from the Green Team and Environmental Commission members.

National Recycling Day: This is scheduled for November 15. Leslie suggested that maybe the EC could do something with the GT. The EC needs to come up with something it wants to do like maybe recycling Styrofoam that day.

Leslie said that Janet Harris from the GT was working on a display for proper PPE disposal. That flyer will be placed on the website. Grant School is collecting hard plastic bottle tops. The GT or EC could have a drop off site for containers. The EC looked into recycling markers but the program is on hold during covid.

Nicole Terrarosa said she would check to see if the Women's Club was still collecting Legos. The EC could support this collection. Nicole said that the EC has discussed recycling hard plastic toys in the past. She also said there is a company, www.secondchancetoys.org. Their FAQ section is listed where it says that if we have 50+ toys we can call and arrange a pick up; if not, we need to bring it to a set drop-off location. They have chances to drop off two times a year, around Earth Day and before Christmas. The EC will look into this for a future project with the DPW.
<https://www.secondchancetoys.org/faq#involved>

The EC will pick what they want to focus on and decide in between meetings.

River Clean-Up: Leslie advised that the Wanda Canoe Club is doing a river clean up behind the DPW on Sunday, October 17. Wanda will clean up in the water and people will clean-up what comes out of the water. Commissioner Olson will have his metal boat to assist. It will take about 2-3 hours to troll the debris. It will take place from 9:00 a.m. – about 11:00 a.m. for anyone wanting to help out.

Earth Day Tides: Leslie will check on the tides for Earth Day 2022 so plans can begin.

Newspaper & Magazine Collection: Beginning January 2022 the DPW will change to curbside pickup of newspapers and magazines just ONCE A MONTH. You can still bring your newspapers and magazines to the recycling center any time it is open.

Green Business: Leslie has called SJ to see if they are still supporting a localized Green Business program. The next decision the EC must make is if it wants to continue to do its own local program even if there are no SJ points available for them just to keep businesses cognizant of what they can do to be more sustainable. There are some businesses that are trying their best to be green while others might not be doing all they can do. Businesses that are no longer following green business practices are, unfortunately, removed from the list. The Brownie Bar is interested in learning about being a green business and Leslie will visit them soon. Some businesses, especially food businesses, have a problem trying to be completely green despite their best efforts.

Leslie said she has seen a lot of the BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) signs in business windows and appreciates seeing them hung up. Lisa and Nicole handled this and said there are some extra that Lisa has.

Street Fair: An email will go out before the street fair advising everyone of the location of the EC table. Set-up will be from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on October 30. Members are encouraged to sign up for a shift if they are available.

Bird Safe Glass: Steve sent a letter to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Planning Board, and the Village Planner regarding incorporating a "bird-safe" mandate for design and materials on all buildings in RP of a certain size. He suggested in the letter that the Village adopt an ordinance similar to the one in New York City and that developers be held to the same criteria as the NYC ordinance. He has received no reply to date.

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

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tammy Laverty and seconded by Matt Graves adjourning the meeting at 7:45 p.m. All were in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

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cc: Commissioner William Gerken

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

Meeting ID: 759 9962 1083 Passcode: 3PsA19