

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M. in court room

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE GREEN TEAM
January 27, 2022**

Leslie Olson called the meeting to order at 7:10 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: Veronica Leone, Leslie Olson, Dennise Santana, Nicole Terrarosa, Daniele Fede, Dyan Thiemann. Absent: Diane Mancini, Daniel Raftery, Rita Raftery, Berlinda Rodriguez, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Janet Malool, Harry Menta, Christopher Gibbons, Janet Harris, Gloria Rivera.

The minutes of the November 29, 2021, meeting were approved on a motion by Dennise Santana and seconded by Veronica Leone. All were in favor of the motion.

Payment of bills: None this month.

Hearing of Citizens: None present.

Correspondence:

- Email dated 12/6/21 from Deborah Fagnan, Children's Librarian Re: Let's Collaborate on bee program
- Email dated 12/7/21 from Rita Raftery Re: St. Francis does not want a plastic bag collection bin in the church
- Email dated 12/15/21 from SJ Re: Congratulations on your Sustainable Jersey Certification – Silver Level 365 pts
- Memo from Tara O'Grady Re: Newsletter Deadline is 2/11/22
- Memo dated 1/24/21 from Tara O'Grady Re: Appointments to GT and Oaths of Office

Reports:

Financial: The budget was submitted. The annual budget is \$1,600.00.

Recycling – Plastic Bags & EPS: Rita Raftery said she spoke to St. Francis about putting a bag collection container at the church and they do not want a collection bin in the church. Dan and Rita are still picking up plastic bags. Veronica Leone also picks up plastic bags. Mark and Leslie Olson handle the EPS.

Public Arts Master Plan: There is nothing new to report. It is still in the works.

Sustainable Jersey: The application was approved with 365 points. The GT was once again certified as Silver. There are 145 points that have expired on 12/31/21.

Bergen Hub: The Hub is still working on EPS recycling in other communities. We have a more robust drive in RP. Other communities are still doing drop-off drives. Bergen County is still looking for someone to pick-up Styrofoam. The GT needs someone to go as the RP representative to the meetings.

Old Business: None at this time.

Sustainable Jersey: The GT was certified as Silver. It is the responsibility of the GT to do SJ for RP and help any other municipality that may need help. Next month we will work more on the application and dividing up responsibilities. The biggest responsibility of the GT is to maintain Silver Certification for RP.

New Business:

Recruiting new members: Members should give some thought as to how to attract more volunteers. Dennise Santana will work on a flyer to try to recruit new members on social media. It would be a good idea to start a mailing list where the GT could send out the minutes and keep people informed of what is going on to see if they might see an activity they might be interested in working on. Dennise will work with Barbara DeLuca on getting a mailing list started.

Moving Forward: It is a good idea to get some sort of calendar so all Village activities are listed. As far as the GT, the following are activities planned for 2022 that members should mark on their calendars:

Earth Day/Green Fair May 21, 2022 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Swap & Shop – September 2022
 Health Fair October 1, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SJ does not consider the Swap & Shop as a Green Fair. The GT needs to hold its own Green Fair. If more is added to the Swap & Shop, it can be considered a Green Fair. The GT could invite other towns to participate. More educational tables and information are needed in order for it to qualify as a Green Fair. Last year's fair was just considered a recycling event by SJ.

It was suggested that the GT host guest speakers; perhaps team up with the library. This could even be done on zoom. Dyan Thiemann said she is also the library liaison for the schools. She can speak to them. She also can do a social media blitz as long as the info is first sent to the Supt. of Schools before it is distributed.

There is a master gardener already working with the community garden. That would make a good guest to attend a meeting and speak for 15-20 minutes to those who wanted to attend. The GT should consider inviting people from different organizations to the GT meeting to give a short talk. Dyan Thiemann said the school has found that zoom meetings really bring more people to the PTA meetings. Leslie Olson said she will bring it up to the community garden. They meet on January 31.

The GT should try to have an event with the library in February. Dyan Thiemann said she will speak to Omar Khan to advise him that the GT is interested in working with the library on this event on how to prep your garden.

The GT will contact Joe D'Angelis about the Facebook page that he started for the GT so someone can see if they want to take on updating it.

Leslie Olson said there is a good chance the electric vehicle charging will happen in 2022. She also said that next meeting the GT needs to select a date to collect the Second Chance Toys. The GT needs to decide what to do and how to do it. They have procedures to hold a collection event. They want the organization to post a date on their website too. The organization must also have at least 50 toys for them to come do a pickup. There are flyers on their website. The GT needs to let people know what is accepted and what isn't accepted. There is no place to store items that will not be accepted by Second Chance Toys. It was suggested that maybe the toy collection could be done on April 23 in conjunction with the Town-wide Clean-up Day that Nicole is working on with the girl scouts and EC. Collection could be done from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and pick-up at 1:00 p.m. by Second Chance Toys. Details will be discussed next meeting.

Newsletter: Deadline is February 11. This is how the GT can keep people informed.

Meeting dates were set for 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room as follows:

JANUARY 27	MAY 26	SEPTEMBER 22
FEBRUARY 24	JUNE 23	OCTOBER 27
MARCH 24	JULY 28 – IF NECESSARY	NOVEMBER 28 (MONDAY)
APRIL 28	AUGUST 25 – IF NECESSARY	DECEMBER – NO MEETING

Elections:

A motion was made by Veronica Leone and seconded by Nicole Kachadorian nominating Leslie Olson as Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Leslie Olson and seconded by Nicole Kachadorian nominating Veronica Leone as Vice-Chair. All were in favor of the motion.

Nicole Kachadorian advised that the library asked the GT and EC to collaborate on a program about bees. Deborah Fagnan, Children's Librarian, wants to host a pollinator celebration event that highlights the crucial role bees and other pollinators play on our planet. She was awarded a small honorarium and 2,000 seed packets. They will provide a tabletop seed packet display where people from town can stop by and get a free packet of seeds to grow wildflowers in their yard.

In addition, she would host two programs at the library or a venue in town where she would provide educational programs. She asked the GT and EC if they were interested in collaborating with her on this event. Nicole and her daughter, Gianna, will speak with Deborah about this collaboration. She was invited to host a table at Earth Day. The grant should be open to all ages.

It was also discussed that it would be a nice idea to work with the library on a fun recycling project. Dyan Thiemann will speak to Omar Kahn about this. Members should look at the TerraCycle website for ideas <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>. Grant School is currently collecting hard plastic bottle caps.

The BOC has set up a new site for Village news. It is <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofRPNJ>. Postings for this site should be sent to: "RP Postings" media@ridgefieldpark.org.

A motion was made by Dennise Santana and seconded by Veronica Leone to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the court room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson

Barbara DeLuca