**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, April 27, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK**

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABLE RP**

**March 23, 2023**

Chair 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 the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village bulletin board. Members present were Veronica Leone, Guillermo Lopez-Acosta, Harry Menta, Leslie Olson, Janet Harris, Daniele Fede, Daniel Raftery, Rita Raftery. Absent: Christopher Gibbons, Diane Mancini, Gloria Rivera, Berlinda Rodriguez, Dyan Thiemann, Ex Officio Members. Excused: Janet Malool, Dennise Santana, Nicole Terrarosa.

The minutes of the February 9, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by Veronica Leone and seconded by Dan Raftery. All were in favor of the motion.

**Payment of bills:** None.

**Hearing of Citizens:** Rich Flynn, DPW, was invited as a guest.

**Correspondence****:**

* Email dated 2/14/23 from Joyce Massaro, Red Cross Re: October 14 is approved for blood drive.
* Email dated 3/1/23 from Octavio Maldonado Re: South Jersey Deaf & Hard of Hearing Coalition (SJDHHC)

**Reports:**

* **Sustainable Jersey Planning – Submission Deadline 5/12 – Second Round**
* **Environmental – Veronica Leone**
* **Arts and Culture – Nicole Terrarosa**
* **Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – Nicole Terrarosa**
  + Nicole will ask the Mayor to do another pledge.
* **Health and Wellness – Barbara DeLuca and Leslie Olson**
  + - Health Assessment Questionnaire ready. We need to get 500 points to be gold.

Leslie will be emailing Commissioner Gerken about distributing the health assessment.

* + - There is a new, revised post on SRP site, which will also be posted on Village site as well.
  + **Welcome Packet** – is complete and posted on the Sustainable RP page on the town’s website.
  + **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** – funding is awaiting approval, ordinance passed, action is under

construction.

* + - Money was given to town for two level 2 stations -Cedar Street and Park Street parking lots.
  + Janet Malool is looking into **Expanded Supplemental Food Programs 10 points and Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security 10 points.**
    - Community Garden is looking into adding pop-up stands when there is surplus, sort of like a lending library but it is food donations. Also looking into a summer food service, possibly on municipal property, or at rec program, etc. Maybe they will try it this year and if it works, put it together for 2024 as an action. Rita said she would help out with this. Janet will ask Sustainable Jersey if the pop-up could be a project.
* DPW is planning on building little libraries for each of the schools. They will be scheduling meeting with the three

grammar schools.

* **Plastic Bag Drop Off Locations** – library, church, co-op, Marlboro House, Lincoln School. Janet Harris will update the flyer to include the current drop-off locations.

**Old Business:**

* Newsletter: Summer Newsletter – suggestions for next newsletter?
  + Grass clippings, native plants, proper ways to recycle, upcoming SRP meetings.
* Health Fair/Blood Drive – date for 2023 is 10/14/23.
  + New vendors for 2023: Acupuncture, Clinical Trials and Research Info on Cancer, Injury Preventer - a PT doing demos on ways to stay healthy & prevent injury, ENT & Allergy Center, Medicare Options, Disability Patient Advocate, Greater Bergen Community Action - health equity manager, NJ Blood Services - info on donating blood and local drives, McKenna Elizabeth Aesthetician - new store on Mt. Vernon does facials, etc. (wellness care), Home watch Caregivers of Bergen, Bradley Bake Shop - gluten free and vegan bake shop located in Bogota, Alzheimer's Association and Greater NJ Chapter, Bergen County Femme NJ - gym doing a demo, Anytime Fitness and Basecamp Fitness, Pearl Vision
  + American Red Cross – blood drive approved, will make every effort to take walk-ins.
    - Would be helpful if walk-ins went online and tried to take an open slot to make sure they are able to donate blood.

#### South Jersey Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coalition (SJDHHC) under Allies in Caring, Inc. – This is nonprofit organization focusses on mental health, wellness, education, advocacy, exchange resources to another partners, and empower Deaf and hard of hearing communities. Leslie will speak with them.

* Recycle Coach – DPW wants us to help with campaign about this as well.
  + Kim Stuart, Customer Success Manager, 1-855-343-3363 X 121, [kstuart@recyclecoach.com](javascript:void(0);)
* Rich Flynn of the DPW was invited to speak with SRP about how the DPW and SRP could work together on educating residents about recycling. SRP is doing a new action this year, Recycling Education and Compliance.

These are some topics to work together on.

* + - Must train people to tie up boxes and break them down.
    - Use the correct size twine to tie up cardboard, which is actually on the sign, give copies to DPW for their Facebook
    - Wednesday – bottles and cans, plastic and glass bottles, tin, and aluminum cans – labels can be on it.
      * Remove caps from water bottles.
      * No #5’s, pill bottles, bottle caps.
      * No strawberry or blueberry containers – must be complete recycling symbol (three arrows) with #5.
      * No salad containers
      * No #5, only #1 & #2 are recyclable.
    - Frozen food boxes are garbage because they have coatings on them.
    - Pizza box is garbage if it is dirty.
    - No #5, only 1 & 2 are recyclable.
* Compliance stickers – DPW just started giving them out.
* Residents are responsible for landscapers.
  + Do not put yard waste on islands or in between islands.
* Caps – Gatorade plastic caps – yes Metal caps – no.
* Top 3 contaminants of Recyclables:
  + Putting recyclables in plastic bags
  + Cardboard not being put together either flattened and tied up or flattened and SECURELY put in another cardboard box.
  + Not tying up yard waste per the DPW website instructions
* SRP can bring information to the DPW, and they will put it on their site.
* DPW putting things out 6 months at a time. This is so they can catch any changes.
* Recycle Coach
  + People should know Recycle Coach.
    - It’s not a change for them; it’s what they already recognize.
    - Leslie Olson will make a sign for use at our events.
  + SRP will set up a two hour session at the Civic Center in April or May.
    - Put QR code.
    - Teach people how to tie up recyclables.

#### New Business:

#### Earth Day – scheduled for May 20, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

* Sneaker Impact Inc – collecting sneakers for recycling at Earth Day, will speak with company to see what we need to do. Flyer will go out to notify people to bring old sneakers to Earth Day.
* Article on groups working with challenges – Project Sidewalk
* Terracycle – collecting disposable razors – Janet Harris will check on Terracyle to do this at Earth Day.
* NJDMV Mobile Unit – maybe do this in 2024 and invite, Bogota & Little Ferry
* **4/22/23 – Paper Shredding and Hard Plastics Recycling 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
  + Need a volunteer list for 4/22 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  + Ask Key Club for 2 people to assist.
  + Daisy Troop will sell cookies as well as help out. Will also get a quick tour of the recycling area by DPW.
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop** 
  + Make up sign where the drop offs are and what you can put there.
* Veronica Leone attended a zoom hosted by the Bergen County Environmental Justice Community Engagement Session on February 23rd learning about furthering environmental justice throughout the state. The zoom was on liquid, not gas, trains. Don Torino is involved, and they have a newsletter trying to reach out to community members.

**Dates to Keep in Mind:**

* **2023 Certification Application Cycle Timeline Released:**

**FIRST ROUND SECOND ROUND THIRD ROUND**

Submission Deadline February 26 May 12 July 27

Return Date Early April Mid-June Mid-Sept.

* **4/22/23 – Paper Shredding and Hard Plastics Recycling 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**
* **5/20/23 – Earth Day 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
* **9/23/23 – Swap & Shop**
* **MEVO** [**https://www.mevo.org/**](https://www.mevo.org/) **as a possible Field trip in April/May 2023**
* **10/14/23 – Health Fair 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. @ K of C Blood Drive 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

A motion was made by Dan Raftery and seconded by Harry Menta to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. All were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for **THURSDAY, April 27, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M**.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara DeLuca**

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Commissioner Mark Olson