

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the January meeting was held via Zoom. The January meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, Council Liaison Weber, Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant, as well as John Curran and Liam Curran. Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Parker, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Thomas were absent.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* and *The Ridgewood News* on December 25, 2021 and posted in the Municipal Building.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Ms. Kymer, the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting were accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes-

All minutes will now be found online. Hard copies will not be distributed.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

In November, Ms. Benfanti reported on the removal of the identified invasive species which has taken place on the bikepath, courtesy of Kieran Barrett and his scouts. This work is part of the ANJEC grant. To replace the invasive species, she would like to see native species planted. She will follow up with Mr. Barrett.

Ms. Boone reported that the outdoor Farmers' Market will remain open through the winter since the indoor market at Smith School will not open. The composting program in conjunction with MEVO will pause for the winter and resume in the spring. Some more composting barrels will be purchased for the upcoming season. Ms. Boone had sent an e-mail about Green Tree Textiles to the Commissioners and the program was discussed as a possibility for inclusion at the Farmers' Market. Mr. Nerney will speak with the mayor and Ms. Boone will check out the program as run in other locations. It was noted that there are Goodwill bins at the recycling center. The bins for Green Tree Textiles do not sit around; they would be removed each weekend.

Mr. Carey has updated the bikepath map which will be put in the three kiosks. He noted that, despite the pandemic, businesses are still coming into the borough.

Mrs. Dey provided a Sustainable Jersey update. Ramsey has earned bronze certification for 2020 and will work on silver certification during 2021. The three kiosks, paid for through the bikepath grant, have been received. The borough's Community

Garden contact is Gordon Ainsworth. There is also a community garden at Union Cemetery on Darlington Avenue, managed by the Presbyterian Church. The 2020 Environmental Commission/Green Team Annual Report is online.

Ms. Hudon reported on the clean-up at the country club when the lake had been drained. Ten bags of refuse were collected. To earn Sustainable Jersey points, a clean-up must have some type of educational element.

Mr. Kehoe shared information about Second Chance Toys which would provide an opportunity for residents to donate their no longer wanted plastic toys. Locally, the toys are collected at the recycling centers in Fair Lawn and Paramus. A swap shed was also suggested as another way to keep old toys out of the garbage.

Under the direction of Ms. Kymer, the Styrofoam collection took place in Ramsey and Upper Saddle River on Saturdays, December 12, December 19, January 2, and January 9. Ramsey's two collections took place at the municipal pool; Ms. Kymer thanked Gary Bach, Pool Manager, for his assistance. She noted that the Bergen HUB is very interested in Styrofoam recycling and there have been county-wide collections which were grant-funded. They are checking into the cost of purchasing a baler. Mr. Nerney thanked Ms. Kymer for a job well done.

Mr. Morris, John Curran, and Liam Curran provided updates about the "Adopt-A-Storm Drain" project. The website was shared with the Commissioners. The plan to publicize the project was discussed. A video training session for drain clean up was suggested. Liam was thanked for a job well done.

Mr. Ramiza reminded the Commissioners that a new stormwater ordinance is required by March, 2021. He has looked at the proposed upgrades and noted that the ordinance could be made more restrictive if the borough wanted to.

Ms. Taylor is looking into a green business recognition program in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Weber reported that Suraci Pond was cleaned up as an Eagle Scout project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Ms. Kymer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via Zoom

