

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 12, 2019**

The March meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:33 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Carey, Ms. Kymer, Ms. Miller, Mr. Ramiza, Commissioners, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Kehoe from the Recycling Committee was also in attendance. He needs to be added to the Green Team as soon as possible. Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Walsh were absent.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* on December 14, 2018 and in *The Ridgewood News* on December 8, 2018 and posted in the Municipal Building.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of Girl Scout Troop 5835 and their adult leaders were in attendance. Ms. Miller had been contacted by them regarding their Bronze Award project. They had asked to attend the March meeting to hear about the Environmental Commission's mission and to get some ideas for their project and to explore partnering with the Commission/Green Team. There was an excellent give-and-take of information and ideas, questions and answers. They plan to help with clean-up day. They were interested in the "Bags to Benches" project as well as other Sustainable Jersey projects.

#### **MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Carey, seconded by Ms. Miller, the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were accepted as received.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes-

Planning Board-January 15, 2019

Shade Tree Commission-December 6, 2018, January 17, 2019

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL**

Work has begun on the community center/pool house/concession stand portion of the project. The borough is still working on some of the permits for the building which will be the senior center and the parking on the right side of the property. The project is ongoing.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY/SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS**

The school district is participating in the Sustainable Schools. According to Holly Falcone, they are not certain they will apply this cycle but there is movement on several actions. Regarding Ramsey's next Sustainable Jersey re-certification, it is important to watch the timing of the actions which are completed so that points can be earned.

**GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP**

Due to a room issue, there was no meeting of the Green Team prior to the Environmental Commission meeting. Moving forward, more Green Team members are needed to assist with the next Sustainable Jersey re-certification. Ms. Kymer and Ms. Taylor continue to work on the Trex Community Challenge project, "Bags to Benches," which helps with the recycling of plastic bags. There is a six-month collection period during which time five hundred pounds of plastic bags would earn a bench. Trex provides three recycling bins. The bins will be placed at the public library, the recycling center, and borough hall. Kohl's will be the collection site for the plastic bags. Ms. Kymer summarized the HUB meeting which was held in Ramsey on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney thanked Ms. Kymer for handling the event. There was decent attendance with great dialogue. The featured topic was "Plastics in the Waterways," presented by Caitlyn Doran of the Hackensack RiverKeeper. Sample ordinances will be looked at, including Hoboken's. Styrofoam recycling and composting were also discussed. Styrofoam will be recycled in Oakland on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and in Ridgewood on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**BIKEPATH PROJECT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

A list of suggested repairs and improvements to the current bikepath segments will be compiled and submitted to the governing body. There are numerous sources for grants, such as one for a feasibility study, including PSE&G, ANJEC, and Sustainable Jersey. The borough employs a company to write grants. The initial plan is to work on the restoration of what is in the borough and to bring more attention to those bikepath segments. Information from the Environmental Commission's bike survey will be referenced; it was included with the minutes. The couple who writes bikepath grants will be invited to an upcoming meeting. Mrs. Dey shared a copy of the grant which had been submitted in 2016. It may be rewritten for submission in April, 2019.

**MASTER PLAN**

Mr. Carey reported that there will be a Master Plan meeting in 2019. The Master Plan is available on the borough website. The recommendations from the Environmental Resource Inventory should be reviewed to ascertain if any have been completed and if any are feasible to pursue.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Environmental Questionnaire was last revised in 2009. It should be updated and revised early in 2019. The questionnaire is available on the borough website. Mr. Morris reached out to ANJEC for feedback. They provided some suggestions which Mr.

Ramiza shared, and which were discussed. ANJEC asked if they could include the questionnaire in their training program. Mrs. Dey reported that she submitted the paperwork for twelve points for local public stormwater education and that the annual report for 2018 is on the borough website.

### **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON**

The budget was introduced at the Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the governing body.

The bid for Phase II of the Main Street Streetscape project was rejected. The re-bids are due on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The borough's Fourth of July festivities will be held on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Environmental Commission's Annual Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, with a raindate of Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. The usual procedures will begin.

The spring journal article is due on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kymer will write about the "Bags to Benches" project.

Ms. Benfanti shared information about monarch butterflies and the work which is being done in North Haledon. She suggested the planting of milkweed in the borough, perhaps making it the borough's official flower.

She also provided information about wireless antennas through "Halt the 5G Antenna Wireless Proliferation in West Milford & Protect Our Families' Health, Safety, Security, Privacy & Property Values."

The Shade Tree Commission is sponsoring an Arbor Day poster contest which may be used for Sustainable Jersey points.

The STEM Showcase is scheduled for Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Smith School. The Environmental Commission was again asked to participate.

### **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEWS**

#### **Planning Board**

Mr. Carey shared information about 425 Island Road which will be a sixteen-home development. They must hire an LSRP. There has not been any action regarding the property owned by St. Paul's. A project for the Ramsey Lumber site will be forthcoming.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Carey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Miller, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019**