

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 13, 2019

The August meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Mr. Morris, 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. Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Carey, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Kymer, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Walsh were absent as were Mr. Parker and Ms. Taylor, Green Team members.

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

Boy Scouts Dylan and Luke Pacenza, 182 Pine Street, were present with their mother, April, to learn more about the workings of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Ramiza shared the review of one of the plans on the agenda. The scouts are looking to get involved with a borough project and the bikepath was suggested. There was discussion about what simple improvements could be made, including better signage and temporary speed bumps. They will bring the issue of the bikepath to their troop.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Ramiza, seconded by Mr. Morris, the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were accepted as received.

DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS

The new plans, 24 Grant Street, Block 3608, Lot 21, and 985 Route 17S, Block 4603, Lot 45.01, were reviewed. Letters will be sent to the Planning Board, indicating that no environmental concerns were noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-April 17, 2019

Planning Board-June 4, 2019, June 18, 2019, July 2, 2019

Shade Tree Commission-May 16, 2019, June 20, 2019

OLD BUSINESS

SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL

Work continues on the community center/pool house/concession stand portion of the project. The necessary permits for the next part of the project have been received by the borough. Bids will go out for the drainage, the parking, and the senior center.

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 has been 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. Decisions will be made shortly regarding which actions to pursue.

GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP

Ramsey has earned its first Trex bench, partially due to the utilization of a dumpster full of plastics at the recycling center. A second collection of over seven hundred pounds was brought to Kohl's. The collection of plastics will continue; the bins are at borough hall, the library, and the recycling center.

BIKEPATH PROJECT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

A list of suggested repairs and improvements to the current bikepath segments needs to 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. The couple who writes bikepath grants will be invited to an upcoming meeting.

MASTER PLAN

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. Mr. Morris reached out to ANJEC for feedback and they in turn asked if they could include the questionnaire in their training program. The Planning Board's review is being handled by Ms. Cusick.

MILKWEED/MONARCH BUTTERFLIES/GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD

Ms. Benfanti is the Environmental Commissioner who is working with the girl scouts. They have planted milkweed at various locations in the borough to attract monarch butterflies. The girl scouts will be earning their Bronze Award and the Environmental Commission will earn Sustainable Jersey points. Additionally, the borough's use of pesticides will be investigated.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Nerney thanked the Pacenza family for attending the meeting and looks forward to their continued interest in the borough's bikepath.

NEW BUSINESS

The Environmental Commission will again be participating in Ramsey Day on Saturday, September 7th. The schedule needs to be finalized; it will be circulated via e-mail. The bikepath will be one focus at the booth.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ramiza, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

Meeting Date: October 8, 2019

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

General

- Attendance/Roll Call

Public Comment

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- August 13th meeting

Developments/Site Plans

- 24 Grant Street, Block 3608, Lot 21-letter was sent to Planning Board after August meeting
- 985 Route 17S, Block 4603, Lot 45.01-letter was sent to Planning Board after August meeting
- 1300 Route 17, Minor Site Plan for Proposed Aldi and Pet Goods
- 4 North Spruce Street, Proposed Coffee Shop
- 436 Route 17N, Block 5103, Lot 5, Ramsey Auto Group-Mazda

Correspondence/Announcements

Old Business

- Senior/Community Center at the pool
- Sustainable Jersey/Sustainable Schools-Carolyn Coletti (composting)
- Green Team/Basecamp/Sustainable Jersey HUB meetings
- Bags to Benches project-see attached picture; coordinate with schools
- Bikepath project/grant opportunities-e-mail from Mrs. Pacenza, asking for bikepath map; scouts are interested in the project-update from the boys
- Master Plan update
- Environmental questionnaire update
- Milkweed/monarch butterflies/Girl Scouts
- Ramsey Day wrap-up

Report of the Council Liaison

Commissioner Comments

New Business

- Recognition of Donna Miller

Committee/Commission Reviews (Commissioner assignments)

- Board of Adjustment-June 19, 2019 (Miller)
- Board of Health-(Kymer) (online only)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney) (online only)
- Design Review Board-(Ramiza) (online only)
- Planning Board-July 16, 2019, September 3, 2019 (Carey)
- Shade Tree Commission-July 18, 2019, August 15, 2019 (Morris)

Adjournment