

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2019**

The January meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Morris at approximately 7:30 p.m., following the Green Team meeting. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Carey, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Kymer, Ms. Miller, Mr. Ramiza, Commissioners, Council Liaison Weber, Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Parker and Ms. Taylor, Green Team members. Mr. Kehoe from the Recycling Committee was also in attendance. He needs to be added to the Green Team as soon as possible. Mr. Nerney 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. The Open Public Meetings Law notice was read by Mr. Morris.

#### **MINUTES**

On motion by Ms. Kymer, seconded by Mr. Carey, the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting were accepted as received.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-October 17, 2018

Planning Board-November 6, 2018

Shade Tree Commission-October 18, 2018

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **425 ISLAND ROAD, BLOCK 4201, LOT 6**

A plan had been received for 425 Island Road, Block 4201, Lot 6, for a major subdivision. Sixteen houses are planned for eight acres. There had been an apple orchard on the property. Mr. Morris and Mr. Nerney handled the project for the Environmental Commission; a letter, dated October 24, 2018, was forwarded to the Planning Board. Mr. Morris will forward a guidance document to Mr. Carey.

#### **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. A committee will be formed to work on the update/revision.

#### **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. Some silt filters need to be utilized at the site.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY/SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS**

The school district will be participating in the new Sustainable Schools cycle for January 2019. Mrs. Dey read the latest communication from Holly Falcone. 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. Mrs. Dey showed the Commission the Sustainable Jersey plaque which was recently received. It will be displayed in borough hall.

**GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP**

The Green Team held a very productive meeting 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 will work on the Trex Community Challenge project, "Bags for 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. Mrs. Dey reported that a bin can be put at the library, according to the new library director. The September Styrofoam recycling opportunities, sponsored by the Sustainable Jersey Bergen HUB, were successful and will be repeated and expanded. Composting is another area of concentration for the group. To be part of a pilot group for community composting, interested Ramsey residents will be needed. The next HUB meeting is scheduled for either Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> in Leonia. Ms. Kymer will attend the meeting. It was suggested that Ramsey offer to host one of those upcoming Bergen HUB meetings.

**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. The couple who writes bikepath grants will be invited to an upcoming meeting.

**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.

**BOROUGH WATER CONCERNS**

Mr. Ramiza had provided a link to a model stormwater ordinance. There was discussion about water issues in the borough, including the potential water quality issue stemming from an outdoor gun range on North Central Avenue. Mr. Carey noted that he

had reported the actions of those driving a recycling truck on Allison Way. He observed them dumping material into the storm drain.

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON**

Councilman Weber was asked about Phase II of the Main Street Streetscape project. A \$630,000 grant has been received by the borough.

Ms. Benfanti asked about the proposed project by St. Paul's, noting that there are wetlands on site. There was no further information available.

The borough is looking for a Recycling Coordinator to replace Harry Smith who has retired. Roger Knauss has assumed the position of Shade Tree Coordinator.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Greenberg asked about the programs which are available through ANJEC, noting that there is one about Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions in Fair Lawn on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those who have attended ANJEC programs reported that they are very informative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Ms. Kymer moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Morris, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

**Meeting Date: March 12, 2019**

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

### **General**

- Attendance/Roll Call

### **Public Comment**

- Girl Scout troop 5835/Bronze Award

### **Discussion/Approval of Minutes**

- January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Developments/Site Plans**

### **Correspondence/Announcements**

### **Old Business**

- Senior/Community Center at the pool update
- Sustainable Jersey/Sustainable Schools
- Green Team/Basecamp/Sustainable Jersey HUB meeting-Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> wrap-up
- Bags for Benches project-Reeva and Michele
- Bikepath project/grant opportunities-ANJEC grant (due date-April)
- Master Plan update
- Environmental questionnaire update
- (FYI)-Submission of annual twelve points for local public education activities for 2018; 2018 annual report on website

### **Report of the Council Liaison**

### **Commissioner Comments**

### **New Business**

- Annual clean-up-Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, raindate-Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> (Junior Woman's Club, St. Paul's, real estate guy)
- Journal article-due Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Monthly action items
- Monarch butterflies
- Shade Tree Commission Arbor Day Poster Contest
- STEM Showcase

### **Committee/Commission Reviews (Commissioner assignments)**

- Board of Adjustment-(Miller)
- Board of Health-(Kymer) (online only)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney) (online only)

- **Design Review Board-(Ramiza) (online only)**
- **Planning Board-January 15, 2019 (Carey)**
- **Shade Tree Commission-December 6, 2018, January 17, 2019 (Morris)**

**Adjournment**