

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 9, 2018

The January meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:33 p.m. Also present were Mr. Carey, Ms. Kymer, Ms. Miller, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, and Ms. Zurlini (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Commissioners, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Parker, Green Team member, was also in attendance. Mr. Greenberg was absent.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* on December 16, 2017 and in *The Ridgewood News* on December 22, 2017 and posted in the Municipal Building.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Martin swore in Mr. Nerney and Mr. Walsh. Mr. Greenberg and Ms. Zurlini still must be sworn in.

MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Kymer, the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting were accepted as received by those in attendance at that meeting. The December meeting had been canceled.

DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS

RAMSEY AUTO GROUP d/b/a RAMSEY INFINITI, 535 AND 555 ROUTE 17S, BLOCK 1501, LOTS 5, 6

Ms. Kymer will handle this project for the Environmental Commission. Referencing the Island Avenue project which Ms. Miller handled for the Environmental Commission, it was noted that the plan had been approved by the Planning Board before her letter was received by that board. There often is a problem with timing. Projects are sometimes approved before the Environmental Commission receives the plans to review. Mr. Carey will work with Ms. Lupo, the secretary for the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board, to alert the Environmental Commission about projects which will be heard by either board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-November 15, 2017

Planning Board-November 7, 2017, December 5, 2017, December 19, 2017

OLD BUSINESS

SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL

The Environmental Commission's letter regarding this project was sent to the Planning Board on Wednesday, March 29th. A new survey and wetlands delineation is being done. Mr. Agnoli, the engineer who is handling the DEP application, will be submitting documentation on behalf of the borough. An official topographical map of the pool property will be available soon.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY/SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Mrs. Dey, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Parker met with representatives of the school system, Audrey Clare, Holly Falcone, and Thomas O'Hern, the district's Business Administrator, to discuss Sustainable Schools. No participation decision was made at that meeting.

GREEN TEAM

There were no appointments to the Green Team at the borough's reorganization meeting.

BIKEPATH PROJECT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Parker initiated a discussion about Ramsey's bikeway, substantiated by several maps which he distributed. The current Ramsey bikeway is 1.25 miles in total, comprised of many short spurs. It could be a goal to provide access to schools, parks, shopping, and transportation via the bikeway. Mr. Carey asked if there have been any discussions regarding connectivity with Allendale and/or Mahwah. Mr. Parker noted that there is no crosswalk across South Central Avenue at Orchard Place; something is needed there. Signage throughout the borough needs to be improved. It is hard to traverse Main Street on bicycle. The bridge by the pool may be part of the senior/community center project. Improvements to the bikeway will enhance the community and its health and safety. Mr. Nerney suggested starting with a small project, perhaps the crosswalk at South Central Avenue/Orchard Place. The Master Plan aims for a more bikeable and walkable community. Borough Administrator Vozech and Mr. Parker had contacted the county regarding a bike lane on Darlington Avenue, but the county indicated that there was not room. Mr. Parker and Councilman Weber exchanged information about the proposed bikeway in the Jean Street/Blauvelt Avenue area which never went forward. Green Acres can be used for both conservation as well as recreation. The borough does have a Complete Streets resolution which could provide the impetus for some related action. It could be the instrument for the building of a well-thought-out plan. Mr. Carey will reach out to the Planning Board's traffic expert. A list of what needs to be repaired/improved on the current bikepath segments will be compiled and submitted to the governing body. It was noted that there are numerous sources for grants, including PSE&G, ANJEC, and Sustainable Jersey.

MASTER PLAN

Mr. Carey provided a Master Plan update. There will be upcoming public meetings about the Master Plan.

BAG IT

The Recycling Committee will be sponsoring another showing of “Bag It” on a date to be determined, rescheduled from Thursday, November 9th. The new date will be close to Earth Day.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Weber has returned to the Environmental Commission as its liaison.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Morris asked why Ms. Sahler was not reappointed to the Environmental Commission, noting the loss to the Commission. Mr. Nerney noted that the Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the mayor and there was no explanation as to why Ms. Sahler was not reappointed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nerney shared information from a conversation with a borough resident who contacted him for guidance about how to proceed when he saw a neighbor filling in wetlands. There was discussion about possible avenues to pursue. The Zoning Officer and DEP could be contacted by the resident.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEWS

Assignments for 2018 were made. The minutes should be checked using the borough’s website since most of the boards and commissions no longer distribute paper copies.

Planning Board

Mr. Carey provided information about the current projects which are before the Planning Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Carey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ramiza, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Meeting Date: February 13, 2018

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

General

- Attendance/Roll Call

Public Comment

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- January 9th meeting

Developments/Site Plans

Correspondence/Announcements

Old Business

- Konica Minolta (Nerney letter)
- Ramsey Auto Group d/b/a Ramsey Infiniti, 535 and 555 Route 17S, Block 1501, Lots 5, 6
- Senior/Community Center at the pool
- Sustainable Jersey/Sustainable Schools
- Green Team/Basecamp
- Bikepath project/grant opportunities
- Master Plan
- “Bag It”-Tuesday, April 24, 7 p.m., at the library

Report of the Council Liaison

Commissioner Comments

New Business

- Annual submission of ten points for stormwater education (FYI)
- Annual report (2017) on website (FYI)
- Annual clean-up day

Committee/Commission Reviews (Commissioner assignments)

- Board of Adjustment-November 29, 2017, December 20, 2017 (Miller)
- Board of Health-(Kymer)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney)
- Design Review Board-(Ramiza)
- Planning Board-January 2, 2018 (Carey)
- Shade Tree Commission-(Morris)

Adjournment

