

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2020**

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, Mr. Carey, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Mr. Ramiza, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Walsh (arrived at 7:55 p.m.), Commissioners, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Parker, Green Team member, was also in attendance. Ms. Boone and Mr. Kehoe, Green Team member, 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 January 3, 2020 and posted in the Municipal Building.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Parker, Green Team member, commented upon the recent Complete Streets Technical Assistance application which was submitted by the borough. The borough applied for assistance to make East Crescent Avenue a Walkable Community corridor rather than apply for assistance with borough bikeability.

#### **MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ramiza, the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting were accepted as received.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS**

Mr. Carey reported that the plan for 1065 Route 17S, Ramsey Energy, LLC, had been passed by the Planning Board.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Minutes-

Board of Adjustment-November 20, 2019

Planning Board-December 3, 2019, December 17, 2019

Shade Tree Commission-October 15, 2019

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Work is wrapping up on the community center/pool house/concession stand portion of the project. The excavation for the next portion of the project has been completed. The project is moving along. Mr. Carey suggested that the Environmental Commission keep an eye on the drainage portion of the project.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**

The deadline for the initial submission for Sustainable Jersey re-certification is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. All information must be submitted by Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn Coletti, a Ramsey High School senior, was present to share further information about her “PassionProject,” which allows students to take on a project for a semester that is of their own creation. Her project centers on composting. She shared her information via a hand-out, “Taking Action-Composting in Ramsey.” The STEM Showcase on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will be utilized for the initial presentation for the pilot program. Information will be available at the Environmental Commission’s Annual Clean-Up Day in April to coordinate with Earth Day. If possible, a composting workshop will be scheduled. She also shared the results of the website survey.

**GREEN TEAM/SUSTAINABLE JERSEY HUB**

Green Team membership will be finalized at an upcoming meeting of the governing body. Ramsey has earned its first Trex bench, partially due to the utilization of a dumpster full of plastics at the recycling center. The bench is located on the bikepath across from Tisdale School. The collection of plastics will continue; the bins are currently at borough hall and the recycling center. The library’s bin was removed. Helping the schools with their participation in the Trex Challenge was discussed. Ms. Taylor summarized information from the recent HUB meeting which she and Ms. Benfanti attended. The next HUB meeting will be in Upper Saddle River in March.

**BIKEPATH PROJECT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

A list of suggested repairs and improvements to the current bikepath segments was generated during the November Green Team meeting. 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.

**MASTER PLAN**

There is an upcoming Master Plan meeting. Two elements were presented at an October meeting, land use and community facilities. Relevant to the Environmental Commission’s bikepath work is the traffic and circulation plan element. The Master Plan is available on the borough website. The recommendations from the Environmental Resource Inventory should be reviewed to ascertain which have been completed and which 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. Mr. Carey noted that the Planning Board’s review is complete, and the revised questionnaire is going out in their packets.

**MILKWEED/MONARCH BUTTERFLIES/GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD**

Ms. Benfanti is the Environmental Commissioner who worked with the girl scouts. They planted milkweed at various locations in the borough to attract monarch butterflies. The girl scouts earned their Bronze Award and the Environmental Commission will earn Sustainable Jersey points. Ms. Benfanti would like to do a clean-up with some older students. She will contact Mr. Franchini at Smith School.

**“ADOPT A STORM DRAIN” PROGRAM**

Mr. Morris noted that there had been an Eagle Scout interested in the program.

**PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE**

Ms. Kymer and Ms. Taylor will look into ordinances from other towns, including Hoboken and Paramus.

**COMPLETION OF 2019 ANNUAL REPORT AND THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT**

Mrs. Dey reported that she had completed both January jobs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nerney swore in Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Walsh. Ms. Boone will be sworn in at the February meeting.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEWS**

**Planning Board**

Mr. Carey shared information about projects which are currently in front of the Planning Board including Lexus and Toyota, 160 Forest Avenue, Porcelanosa, 24 Grant Street, 83 Grant Street, and improvements to the school buildings. He had no update regarding the St. Paul's property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

**Meeting Date: February 11, 2020**

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

### **General**

- Attendance/Roll Call
- Swear in Boone

### **Public Comment**

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

- January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Developments/Site Plans**

### **Correspondence/Announcements**

### **Old Business**

- Senior/Community Center at the pool
- Sustainable Jersey-Re-certification-Silver discussion
- Composting-Carolyn Coletti-schedule of events
- Green Team/Recycling
- Sustainable Jersey HUB meeting-Taylor
- Bags to Benches project-possible coordination with schools
- Bikepath project/grant opportunities/updates
- Master Plan update
- Environmental questionnaire update
- Adoption of storm drains-Morris
- Plastic bag ordinance-Board of Health update
- Date for annual clean-up

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

### **Commissioner Comments**

### **New Business**

- Ramiza e-mail

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

- Board of Adjustment-December 18, 2019 (Miller) (replacement needed)
- Board of Health-(Kymer) (online only)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney) (online only)
- Design Review Board-(Ramiza) (online only)
- Planning Board-January 7, 2020 (Carey)
- Shade Tree Commission-November 19, 2019 (Morris)

## **Adjournment**