

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Until further notice, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom. The February meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:36 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Ms. Danz, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Carey, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Ramiza, 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 Thursday, December 23, 2021 and *The Ridgewood News* on Friday, December 24, 2021 and posted in the Municipal Building.

Mr. Walsh still needs to be sworn in.

MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Boone, seconded by Ms. Danz, the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting were accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

All minutes will now be found online. Hard copies will not be distributed.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Benfanti initiated a discussion about what to plant on the bikepath and where. She has \$500 from Farmers' Market funds and has applied for a grant through the Audubon Society. She will check with the borough to ascertain if Roundup is still being used. Mr. Parker suggested looking into material safety data sheets. She also noted that she knows someone who has photographs of the extensive wildlife at Van Gelder, showing the biodiversity in Ramsey.

Ms. Boone noted that she is putting together the schedule for the Farmers' Market for 2022. Mr. Kehoe suggested that the first plastic toy collection for the year be scheduled for Sunday, April 24th. He also suggested the pre-holiday date of Sunday, November 13th. Ms. Danz indicated that she would like to help.

Ms. Boone provided an update regarding the Green Business Recognition Program. The window clings have been created and purchased. There are three businesses which have already qualified for the recognition.

There is a new contact person at the high school for the Environmental Scholarship. A new registration form must be completed, including the criteria for the scholarship. The recipient is chosen by a committee at the high school.

Mrs. Dey had spoken with Mr. Melso, chairman of the Shade Tree Commission. So that no additional meeting is necessary, the March 8th Zoom meeting of the Environmental Commission will begin at 7:15 and members of Shade Tree will be invited to attend at that time.

She completed the annual paperwork for the points for stormwater education and submitted it to Jack D'Agostaro, Borough Engineer. She also is working on the annual report which will include a summary of the Silver Certification actions and those who assisted.

Ms. Hudon looked into scheduling the exhibit space at the library during the month of April. The plan was to tie in the exhibits with Earth Day, the annual borough clean-up, and the third collection for Second Chance Toys. There is a display case at borough hall currently housing items from the borough centennial in 2008. That display case could be used for Environmental's April displays.

Mr. Parker initiated a discussion about electric vehicles and charging stations. There is a Hub committee which deals with electric vehicles/charging stations; they could be consulted for pertinent information such as a draft amendment. He has been in contact with Ken Jones of Glen Rock, and Chuck Feinberg, of the New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition. There are many grants and rebate programs that can be applied for. He also is working on securing a demo vehicle which could be displayed at the Farmers' Market or in the municipal parking lot across from borough hall.

Mr. Morris proposed Saturday, April 9th, with a raindate of Sunday, April 10th, for the annual clean-up day. He will send out the usual e-mails to get the process going.

Mr. Ramiza had sent an e-mail with pertinent information about the upcoming plastic bag ban.

Mr. Weber reported that the *Ramsey Journal* may begin publication again. He did check with Borough Administrator Vozech about putting up a Sustainable Jersey sign in the borough.

Ms. Benfanti asked about any plans for the land behind St. Paul's. She also asked about any updates from the Historical Society about the yellow house on Island Road. Ms. Boone noted that the well on the property is being moved to the Old Stone House.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Ms. Boone moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Mr. Morris, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom