

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

Continuing into 2023, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom until April. The February meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:32 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. DiPilato, Mr. Knauss, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Ramiza, and Council Liaison Popolo were absent. Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Ramiza need to be sworn in. Ms. Danz has resigned from the Environmental Commission.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 and *The Ridgewood News* on Friday, December 9, 2022 and posted in the Municipal Building.

#### **MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Knauss, the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting were accepted as received.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Benfanti completed the Audubon grant, and the borough has received the funds which will be used for the planting of more native plants near the Trex bench on the bikepath. She is making plans for that planting. A 2023 date for another meeting with the Shade Tree Commission needs to be determined but currently they are working on a project with the Recreation Commission. The updated Shade Tree ordinance has not yet been approved by the governing body. The article which she submitted to *Ramsey Neighbors* will be published next month.

Ms. Boone reported on the upcoming activities at the Farmers' Market. The mild winter has been a bonus for the year-round Farmers' Market.

Mr. Carey reviewed the latest information from the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment, both of which will also not be meeting in person until April. The borough's traffic engineer, Brian Intindola, will provide assistance with the Master Plan's Traffic and Circulation plan. There should be an initial draft in three or four weeks. The Environmental Commissioners and the Green Team members will get a working draft so that they can provide comments so that the plan can eventually be implemented. The public will also be given the opportunity to comment. An implementation committee may be selected shortly. Later in the meeting, Mr. Carey shared a walkability checklist

which he would like completed by members of the borough to generate a walkability score which could lead to funding opportunities/grants. There is a companion bikeability survey. There was discussion about walkability and bikeability in the borough which generated several issues (busing, seniors, crosswalks) for consideration. Ms. Kundriat suggested that speed limits should be painted on the roads.

Mr. Carey had some questions about the current status of the Recycling Committee and checked with Mayor Dillon who said the committee is meeting.

The Environmental Commission/Green Team will be working on bronze Sustainable Jersey certification in 2023 since several of Ramsey's earned actions will not expire until December 2023; the group will begin with 60 of the 150 required points already earned. The first submission date is Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Dey completed the usual jobs for the beginning of the year; the 2022 annual report is on the website, the stormwater education paperwork has been submitted to Borough Engineer D'Agostaro, and the 2023 ANJEC membership has been updated. The recognition of Shankar as a PTSO VIP at Ramsey High School was well-deserved. He has helped at every one of the Second Chance Toys collection. Mrs. Dey will check in with Laney Darmiento.

Ms. DiPilato is preparing a presentation about food waste. There is a new Hub committee about food waste, chaired by Mark Savastano. She shared information about New Jersey's new goals in the state's fight against climate change which Governor Murphy will be announcing shortly.

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date scheduled for the next plastic toy collection at the Farmers' Market in conjunction with Second Chance Toys. The November date will be selected next month.

Mr. Morris noted that the date for the annual Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a raindate of Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The library requested that their grounds be added to the clean-up list. The Junior Woman's Club will be providing the food as they generally do. The usual pre-event actions will be completed.

Mr. Parker is working on the plans for the electric vehicle demonstration which will be held the same weekend as Clean-Up Day and the plastic toy collection, on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the afternoon. The three events will be publicized as parts of a special environmental weekend in Ramsey. He will check with Borough Administrator Vozeh about the utilization of the Mechanic Street parking lot for the electric vehicles display.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**