

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 14, 2023

Beginning in April, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held in the Senior/Community Center. The March meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Ms. DiPilato, Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Knauss, Ms. Kymer, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ramiza, Council Liaison Popolo, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Carey and Ms. Hudon were absent. Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Ramiza need to be sworn in.

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. Knauss, seconded by Mr. Nerney, the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting were accepted as received.

DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS

Mr. Ramiza reviewed the plans for 13 North Central Avenue and determined that they were no environmental issues. The appropriate letter was forwarded to the Board of Adjustment.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Nerney began the reports portion of the meeting with a discussion of Clean-Up Day, the Commission's nineteenth, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, which is Earth Day, with a raindate of Sunday, April 23rd. The flyer has been e-mailed to everyone; everyone was asked to spread the word. Ms. Kymer will pick up the gloves and garbage bags from the county. She reminded everyone to take photos since some must be submitted with the mini-grant application. Ms. Boone will contact Jackie Gersht regarding the participation of the scouts in the borough. It is expected that the pertinent information can be put on the various electronic signs in the borough. Mr. Parker has already begun his yearly trail maintenance. 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.

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* was published in the current issue on page 28. She has made plans for an activity to be held on Clean-Up Day. She also shared information about two SOAR activities which the Environmental Commission/Green Team are working on in conjunction with the library. "Pocket Full of Pollinators" is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th and a photography class will take place in May; registration for those classes will be handled by the library.

Ms. Boone reported on the upcoming activities at the Farmers' Market. Eyes On Ramsey, a new business in the borough, has already been recognized as a Green Business.

Mrs. Dey completed the first-round submission for bronze Sustainable Jersey certification on Sunday, February 26th. Ramsey started with 60 of the 150 required points already earned. The second deadline is in May and the final deadline is in July. She also shared some information about Earth Hour which is scheduled for 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 25th.

Ms. DiPilato is preparing a presentation about food waste which she expects to share at the May meeting. There is a new Hub committee about food waste, chaired by Mark Savastano. She will get in touch with him soon. Mr. Popolo will share information about her work with the governing body. She asked about the walkability survey which Mr. Carey had shared at the February meeting. Distribution of that survey has been put on hold for the time being.

Mr. Kehoe reminded everyone that Sunday, April 23rd, from 9 a.m. to noon, 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 soon.

Ms. Kundriat asked about the logs which were left on a Chestnut Street property. She also noted that the storm drains need to be cleaned on Main Street and asked if electric vehicles need to be inspected.

Ms. Kymer reported that there will be a Styrofoam collection on Saturday, March 18th in Upper Saddle River. She would like to alternate monthly collection opportunities with Upper Saddle River, but Ramsey's DPW would need to take the collected Styrofoam to PolyMolding in Haskell. The charge is \$70 per load. Mr. Popolo will check with the borough to determine if that is possible as well as where the Styrofoam could be collected.

Mr. Parker shared his flyer for the electric vehicle car show which will be held the same weekend as Clean-Up Day and the plastic toy collection, on Sunday, April 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The three events will be publicized as parts of a special environmental weekend in Ramsey. Car dealerships will be in attendance and Orange & Rockland will be contacted. He checked with Borough Administrator Vozeh about the utilization of the Mechanic Street parking lot for the electric vehicles display. DPW will be asked to cordon off a section of the parking lot since people going to the Farmers' Market often park there.

Mr. Ramiza reminded everyone to share their flyers which he will put on Environmental's Facebook page.

Mr. Popolo reported that the governing body is focused on the budget for 2023. The vote will take place on Wednesday, April 12th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:22 p.m., seconded by Ms. Boone, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Senior/Community Center**