

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – APRIL 9, 2019

The April meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Mr. Carey, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, Commissioners, Mr. Parker, Green Team member, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Kehoe from the Recycling Committee was also in attendance. He needs to be added to the Green Team as soon as possible. Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Taylor were absent.

Mr. Nerney swore in Mr. Walsh.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* on December 14, 2018 and in *The Ridgewood News* on December 8, 2018 and posted in the Municipal Building.

MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Kymer, seconded by Mr. Ramiza, the minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting were accepted as received.

DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS

Ms. Miller and Mr. Ramiza wrote the letter, dated April 1, 2019, which was forwarded to the Planning Board regarding Ramsey Energy at 1065 Route 17. The Planning Board did not approve the plan due to the signage.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes-

Planning Board-February 5, 2019

Shade Tree Commission-February 21, 2019

Mrs. Dey read the e-mail, dated April 3, 2019, which had been received from Lori Kriz, the leader of Girl Scout Troop 5835.

OLD BUSINESS

SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL

Work has begun on the community center/pool house/concession stand portion of the project. The borough is still working on some of the permits for the building which will be the senior center and the parking on the right side of the property. The project is ongoing.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY/SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

The school district is participating in the Sustainable Schools. According to Holly Falcone, they are not certain they will apply this cycle but there is movement on several

actions. Regarding Ramsey's next Sustainable Jersey re-certification, it is important to watch the timing of the actions which are completed so that points can be earned.

GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP

The Green Team met prior to the Environmental Commission meeting and focused on recycling and the bike path. Moving forward, more Green Team members are needed to assist with the next Sustainable Jersey re-certification. Ms. Kymer and Ms. Taylor continue to work on the Trex Community Challenge project, "Bags to Benches," which helps with the recycling of plastic bags. There is a six-month collection period during which time five hundred pounds of plastic bags would earn a bench for the borough. Trex provides three recycling bins. The bins will be placed at the public library, the recycling center, and borough hall. Kohl's will be the collection site for the plastic bags. Styrofoam will be recycled in Oakland on Sunday, April 28th and in Ridgewood on Saturday, May 18th.

BIKEPATH PROJECT/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

A list of suggested repairs and improvements to the current bikepath segments needs to be compiled and submitted to the governing body. It was suggested that the Main Street merchants be contacted regarding sprucing up Main Street. 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. The couple who writes bikepath grants will be invited to an upcoming meeting. Mrs. Dey will update the ANJEC grant submission from 2016 and submit it by the April deadline.

MASTER PLAN

Mr. Carey reported that there will be a Master Plan meeting in 2019. The Master Plan is available on the borough website. The recommendations from the Environmental Resource Inventory should be reviewed to ascertain if any have been completed and if any 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. It is expected that the revised questionnaire will be finalized by the May meeting.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Environmental Scholarship had been increased to \$750 from \$500.

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY

The Environmental Commission's Annual Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th, with a raindate of Sunday, April 14th. The usual procedures are underway. The kick-off for the "Bags to Benches" plastics collection will begin that day; Mrs. Dey will send out an e-mail blast including that information.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON

The budget was passed at the Wednesday, March 27th meeting of the governing body.

Councilman Weber summarized the upcoming roadwork in the borough.

The bid for Phase II of the Main Street Streetscape project was rejected. There was only one re-bid.

The borough's Fourth of July festivities will be held on Sunday, July 7th.

The borough is looking for a Shade Tree Coordinator due to the resignation of Mr. Knauss.

NEW BUSINESS

Purbita Shah was present; she works with Ms. Taylor who was unable to attend the meeting. She provided information about an app, Recycling Coach.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEWS

Planning Board

Mr. Carey shared information about 425 Island Road which will be a sixteen-home development. A letter regarding the project had been sent by the Environmental Commission. There has not been any action regarding the property owned by St. Paul's. A project for the Ramsey Lumber site will be forthcoming. Mr. Carey provided updates about 83 Grant Street and 213 Grove Street. He requested a letter from the Environmental Commission regarding 25 North Franklin Turnpike, a new Board of Education location. Mr. Nerney will visit the site and write the letter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Carey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kymer, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

