

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING - MAY 9, 2023**

Beginning in April, the Environmental Commission meetings are being held in the Senior/Community Center. The May meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Carey, Ms. DiPilato, Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Knauss, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Boone, Ms. Hudon, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Ramiza, and Council Liaison Popolo were absent.

Mr. Nerney swore in Mr. Morris. Ms. Kymer and Mr. Ramiza still 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. Nerney, seconded by Mr. Carey, the minutes of the April 11, 2023 meeting were accepted as received.

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

The plans for the conversion of Chase Bank on Spruce Street to a childcare center should be coming soon.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

Throughout the meeting, there were discussions about the traffic at Route 17's Chick-fil-A, a tree ordinance which would regulate the number of caliper inches which can be removed by a resident, the community garden, and some of the dangerous sidewalks in the borough, especially on Darlington Avenue, a portion of which will be changed from asphalt to concrete.

Ms. Benfanti reported on the SOAR activities which were held in the borough. There was a clean-up day activity. Two other SOAR activities were held in conjunction with the library, "Pocket Full of Pollinators" (Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>) and a photography class in May; registration for those classes was handled by the library.

She will be using the money from the Audubon grant for a fall planting. She will be using native plants. She asked if the borough still uses RoundUp.

She will be working on another Youth Maker's Market to be held at the Farmers' Market.

Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the pre-holiday plastic toys collection at the Farmers' Market.

Mr. Carey will be replacing the maps in the three kiosks since they have faded.

There will be a Master Plan meeting on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Dey completed both the first-round and second-round submissions for bronze Sustainable Jersey certification. Ramsey started with 60 of the 150 required points already earned. The final deadline is in July.

Since Councilman Popolo was not in attendance, Ms. DiPilato will be presenting her research on food waste recycling in June. The goal is to set up a drop-off location for food scraps in the borough.

Our Special Environmental Weekend included the Annual Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the Plastic Toys Collection and the EV Car Show on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The weather impacted all three of the events. Mr. Kehoe reported that Shankar was again in attendance at the Second Chance Toys collection. Usually three cars go to Fair Lawn with the toys; this time two cars went but there still were plenty of good toys that were collected. Regarding clean-up day, approximately eighty volunteers covered all of the areas to be cleaned in the borough. The 20<sup>th</sup> Clean-Up Day will take place in 2024. Regarding the Electric Vehicles Car Show, Volvo, BMW, Volkswagen, one other dealer, and Orange & Rockland were in attendance. The borough had been very cooperative. Mr. Parker plans to repeat the event.

Last month Ms. Kundriat asked if the trees could be trimmed over the Community Garden at Finch Park. There is very little sunlight over the various garden plots. Gordon Ainsworth is the Community Garden contact. Tom Lanning of DPW and Jim Trouf of the Shade Tree Commission were consulted about the issue.

Mr. Knauss shared some upcoming dates including Shredding Day on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. A mobile unit from the DMV will be in the borough on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He also noted that Sam Wright, who could often be found picking up garbage on Main Street, has died.

Mr. Carey shared information about the FLOW movie series, a joint endeavor by the Franklin Lakes, Oakland, and Wyckoff Environmental Commissions/Green Teams.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The July meeting will be cancelled. Plans for Ramsey Day, including those topics which will be highlighted, will be finalized at the August meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the **Senior/Community Center****