

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING –MAY 10, 2022

Until further notice, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom. The May meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:40 p.m. Also present were Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Walsh, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Danz, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Ramiza 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.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Nerney, seconded by Mr. Carey, the minutes of the April 12, 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 has completed the Audubon grant and is awaiting a decision. She would like to plant native plants near the Trex bench on the bikepath. She had attended a recent workshop at the library about native plants. The library may partner with the Environmental Commission/Green Team on a related project. The Shade Tree Commission is looking into a revised tree removal ordinance. Mr. Ramiza had provided a link to Ridgewood's latest tree ordinance. Many local municipalities are rewriting their tree ordinances at this time.

Ms. Boone has displayed information regarding the plastic bag ban, provided by Mr. Nerney, at the Farmers' Market.

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. Once the certificates are done, the three businesses (Bar Boutique, LEAP Preschool, The Mindful Café) will be given their window clings and certificates.

Mr. Carey reviewed the latest information from the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. A lot of new businesses are coming into Ramsey, including Globe Shoes and Burlington Coat Factory. DSW will change its location at Interstate. He noted that

there are ADA considerations with regard to outdoor dining. The borough's newly-hired traffic consultant will be taking a look at the Chick-Fil-A traffic situation and the car wash on Route 17N. Once those two issues are finalized, the traffic consultant can provide assistance with the Master Plan's Traffic and Circulation plan.

Regarding Mr. Carey's suggestion that the upcoming *Ramsey Journal* be printed on recycled paper, Mrs. Dey had contacted Councilwoman Poppe who responded with reasons why that will not happen.

Mrs. Dey shared that the borough is looking into grants for charging stations at four different locations. Carolyn Coletti will be working with MEVO during the summer and may want to work with the Environmental Commission/Green Team.

Ms. Hudon completed the environmental display using the case on the first floor at borough hall. She will be changing the items to keep it current. The Shade Tree Commission can also provide information for the display case.

Mr. Kehoe reported that the Sunday, April 24th plastic toy collection in conjunction with Second Chance Toys went very well. Ms. Danz, Mrs. Dey, and Mr. Kehoe brought full vehicles to the Fair Lawn Recycling Center. Shankar Suriyanarayanan, now a sophomore at Ramsey High School, was present to help for a third time. Mrs. Dey does write a letter of recommendation for him each time. The next collection is scheduled for Sunday, November 13th. Mr. Kehoe also asked about garbage pick-up at Mavis Tires following clean-up day.

Ms. Kymer noted that there will be some upcoming Styrofoam collections in other municipalities. She would like to schedule one for Ramsey. Perhaps the pool parking lot could be used after the pool closes for the 2022 season. One county municipality, probably Ridgewood, is looking into buying a Styrofoam densifier. She also shared information about other HUB topics such as the plastic bag ban and charging stations. Charging stations will be required in new developments.

It appears that Liam Curran's "Adopt A Storm Drain" website is currently down. Mr. Morris will contact him. Perhaps one of the Environmental Clubs, either at Smith School or the high school, could take over the program.

Mr. Walsh asked about the work which was done by the Route 17 ramp near Volvo. It is a retention basin to help with drainage. Further information should be available in an environmental impact statement.

Mr. Weber shared information about the mandatory lead line replacement which needs to be completed within ten years although Ramsey is well ahead of that deadline. The borough's Fourth of July observation is scheduled for Friday, July 1st. The borough

has been awarded several grants, including one for the North Central Avenue soccer field. There will be a water/sewer increase.

NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that the July meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Carey asked Mrs. Dey to look into a Zoom account for the Environmental Commission/Green Team.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.