

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MAY 14, 2019

The May meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Carey, Ms. Miller, Mr. Walsh, Commissioners, Mr. Parker and Ms. Taylor, Green Team members, 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. Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, and Council Liaison Weber were absent.

Mr. Nerney swore in Ms. Taylor.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin McCulloch, 79 West Crescent Avenue, was present to ask about the status of Van Gelder's Pond. There was discussion including ownership, presence of wetlands, its under-utilization, and the thick vegetation. A "No Littering" sign was suggested. There was a question about actively preserving what land is left in Ramsey. The discussion moved to the need for better recycling education within the borough. Additionally, water violations in the borough and the need for a wellhead protection ordinance were noted.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the minutes of the April 9, 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-

Shade Tree Commission-March 21, 2019

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 has been 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. At the June Green Team meeting, the group will assess what Sustainable Jersey actions might be possible for that next re-certification in 2020.

GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP

The Green Team met prior to the Environmental Commission meeting and focused its discussion on the bike path. Moving forward, more Green Team members are needed to assist with the next Sustainable Jersey re-certification. Ms. Taylor provided an update on the Trex Community Challenge project, "Bags to Benches," which helps with the recycling of plastic bags. Ramsey has earned its first bench, partially due to the utilization of a dumpster full of plastics at the recycling center. The collection of plastics will continue; the bins are at borough hall, the library, and the recycling center. Both the color of the bench and its location need to be determined. Styrofoam will be recycled 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 did update the ANJEC grant submission from 2016 and submitted it by the April deadline. Once again Ramsey did not receive the \$1,500 grant which would have been used for bikepath improvements; Mrs. Dey will contact ANJEC to ascertain what could be done so that Ramsey does receive the funds from this source in the future.

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. Currently there are some issues with the planner which need to be rectified.

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. The Planning Board's review will be coming soon.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Environmental Scholarship had been increased to \$750 from \$500. A committee from the high school will be selecting the recipient.

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY

The Environmental Commission's Annual Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 13th went very well. Mr. Morris will supply the usual numbers which are generated, number of volunteers and number of pounds of garbage and recyclables collected. Ms. Miller suggested that the businesses be contacted prior to clean-up so they can also be involved. She also suggested that smaller plastic bags be used for collection.

MILKWEED/MONARCH BUTTERFLIES/GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD

Ms. Benfanti is the Environmental Commissioner who is working with the girl scouts. They will be planting milkweed to attract monarch butterflies at various borough sites. The girl scouts will be earning their Bronze Award and the Environmental Commission will earn Sustainable Jersey points.

25 NORTH FRANKLIN TURNPIKE

Mr. Nerney wrote the letter on behalf of the Environmental Commission regarding the new Board of Education location. In addition to the Environmental Commission, the Shade Tree Commission will also be providing recommendations for the site.

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. He noted that there are streams which were not identified; it would be helpful to have all of the borough streams named. There has not been any action regarding the property owned by St. Paul's. A project for the Ramsey Lumber site will be forthcoming from Newcastle Builders. Mr. Carey provided updates about 83 Grant Street and 213 Grove Street with its power lines and underground AT&T cable. He enumerated some of the new businesses which will be coming to Ramsey, including Aldi's, PetSmart, Brothers BBQ, and Columbia Bank. Ramsey has less than a three percent vacancy rate.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Ms. Benfanti, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

Meeting Date: June 11, 2019

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

General

- Attendance/Roll Call

Public Comment

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- May 14th meeting

Developments/Site Plans

Correspondence/Announcements

- Purbita Shah (attended April meeting) e-mail re: Recycle Coach

Old Business

- Senior/Community Center at the pool
- Sustainable Jersey/Sustainable Schools
- Green Team/Basecamp/Sustainable Jersey HUB meetings
- Bags to Benches project
- Bikepath project/grant opportunities-ANJEC grant
- Master Plan update
- Environmental questionnaire update
- Annual scholarship-\$750
- Milkweed/monarch butterflies/Girl Scouts-use of Roundup

Report of the Council Liaison

Commissioner Comments

New Business

- Cancellation of July meeting
- Monthly action items

Committee/Commission Reviews (Commissioner assignments)

- Board of Adjustment-(Miller)
- Board of Health-(Kymer) (online only)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney) (online only)
- Design Review Board-(Ramiza) (online only)
- Planning Board-May 7, 2019, May 21, 2019 (Carey)
- Shade Tree Commission-April 18, 2019 (Morris)

Adjournment

