

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JUNE 11, 2019

The June 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, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, Commissioners, Mr. Parker and Ms. Taylor, Green Team members, 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. Miller was absent.

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

Nancy Motto, 95 West Crescent Avenue, was present to ask about the status of Van Gelder's Pond. The discussion was similar to that from the May meeting when Mr. McCulloch, 79 West Crescent Avenue, was present also regarding Van Gelder's Pond. The discussion included ownership, presence of wetlands, its under-utilization, the thick vegetation, and fines for illegal dumping and littering. Better signage is needed. The group from St. Joe's cleaned up Van Gelder's during clean-up day. 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 also noted.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Carey, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting were accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes-

Planning Board-May 7, 2019, May 21, 2019

Shade Tree Commission-April 18, 2019

Purbita Shah, who attended the April meeting, sent an e-mail regarding Recycle Coach. Mrs. Dey will follow-up with her.

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. During the Green Team meeting prior to the Environmental Commission meeting, the group began to look at which Sustainable Jersey actions might be possible for that next re-certification in 2020.

GREEN TEAM/BASECAMP

Ms. Taylor provided an update on the Trex Community Challenge project, "Bags to Benches," which helps with the recycling of plastics. 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 will be determined. If possible, Ramsey's collection of plastics may be used by Smith School.

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, 2019 deadline. She contacted ANJEC for some guidance since Ramsey again did not receive the \$1,500 grant which would have been used for bikepath improvements. She did not hear back from ANJEC.

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 is being handled by Ms. Cusick.

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

Approximately one hundred volunteers supported the Environmental Commission's Annual Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 13th.

MILKWEED/MONARCH BUTTERFLIES/GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD

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

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL LIAISON

The borough's Fourth of July observance will be held on Saturday, July 6th, with a raindate of Sunday, July 7th.

Jim Trouf has been named the Shade Tree/Recycling Coordinator, replacing Roger Knauss.

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. He also noted that he has spoken with Nancy Boone, manager of Ramsey's Farmers' Market, about composting. Ms. Boone was very helpful with the last Sustainable Jersey re-certification.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Carey moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kymer, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019

Meeting Date: August 13, 2019

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

General

- Attendance/Roll Call

Public Comment

Discussion/Approval of Minutes

- June 11th meeting

Developments/Site Plans

- 24 Grant Street, Block 3608, Lot 21
- 985 Route 17S, Block 4603, Lot 45.01

Correspondence/Announcements

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
- Milkweed/monarch butterflies/Girl Scouts

Report of the Council Liaison

Commissioner Comments

New Business

- Ramsey Day

Committee/Commission Reviews (Commissioner assignments)

- Board of Adjustment-April 17, 2019 (Miller)
- Board of Health-(Kymer) (online only)
- Board of Public Works-(Nerney) (online only)
- Design Review Board-(Ramiza) (online only)
- Planning Board-June 4, 2019, June 18, 2019, July 2, 2019 (Carey)
- Shade Tree Commission-May 16, 2019, June 20, 2019 (Morris)

Adjournment

