

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JUNE 13, 2023

Beginning in April, the Environmental Commission meetings are being held in the Senior/Community Center. 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, Ms. Boone, Ms. DiPilato, Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Knauss, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ramiza, Council Liaison Popolo, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Carey, Ms. Kundriat, and Mr. Morris were absent.

Mr. Nerney swore in Ms. Kymer and Mr. Ramiza.

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. Knauss, seconded by Mr. Nerney, the minutes of the May 9, 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.

Ms. Hudon has resigned from the Green Team.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Benfanti, along with Mr. Carey, would like to look into the restoration of Van Gelder's Pond. The required permits would need to be ascertained. She noted that SOAR does work on pond restoration. Ms. Benfanti asked about "turtle crossing" signs. She will determine where in the borough she would like them placed. She is working with Hubbard School to position pollinator hotels and native plantings. She shared information about mosquito spraying in the borough.

Ms. Boone asked for information about the Data Center on MacArthur Boulevard in Mahwah. T-Mobile is the latest business to participate in the Green Business Recognition Program. She suggested Wellsweep Herb Farm to Ms. Benfanti.

Sunday, November 12th is the selected date for the pre-holiday plastic toys collection at the Farmers' Market.

Mr. Carey replaced the bike route maps in the three kiosks since they have faded.

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 at the end of July.

In May, Mr. Carey shared information about the FLOW movie series, a joint endeavor by the Franklin Lakes, Oakland, and Wyckoff Environmental Commissions/Green Teams. Mr. Kehoe attended the Thursday, May 18th movie at the Wyckoff Library about trash, "Trash: Why it Costs So Much & How to Reduce It," but found nothing actionable. There were about thirty people in attendance.

Regarding the grant for clean-up day, Ms. Kymer needed photos of people actually cleaning up. Fortunately, Ms. DiPilato had photos which met that requirement. Next year Borough Engineer D'Agostaro will be asked for black plastic bags.

There was discussion about Styrofoam recycling. Since the borough does not want to go to Haskell, Ridgewood's recycling will be researched.

Mr. Nerney reported that Sophia Remisio was awarded the \$750 Environmental Commission scholarship.

Mr. Parker continues to do trail maintenance throughout the borough.

Ms. DiPilato presented her very informative research, "Food Scraps Recycling Initiative." The goal is to set up a drop-off location/locations for food scraps in the borough. The availability of grants will be looked into. Her research will be shared with the governing body which will make the ultimate decision about such a program.

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 9:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Boone, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Senior/Community Center**