

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 8, 2023

Beginning in April, the Environmental Commission meetings are being held in the Senior/Community Center. The August meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:30 p.m. Also present were Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. DiPilato, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Knauss, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Benfanti, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Ramiza, and Council Liaison Popolo were absent.

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 Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Knauss, the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting were accepted as received. The July meeting had been cancelled.

DEVELOPMENTS/SITE PLANS

Mr. Carey mentioned three plans, Mitsubishi on Route 17, 14 Mechanic Street, and the restaurant at the Country Club. The plans for the Bielen property are going back to square one.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Benfanti will be using the Audubon grant money for the next planting that she will do.

Ms. Boone noted that a petition has been circulated regarding the Data Center tower which is going up in Mahwah. It is in close proximity to the soccer field on North Central Avenue as well as the Elbert Court neighborhood. It was suggested that she reach out to Borough Engineer D'Agostaro for further information.

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

Mrs. Dey submitted 170 points for Bronze Certification by the July Sustainable Jersey deadline. The final evaluation will be done by mid-September. Ramsey's silver certification is good through 2024; the bronze certification will be good through 2026.

Mr. Carey shared background information about the little pond off of the bikepath near the Trex bench. He suggested that the Environmental Commission/Green Team look into some type of project for that area.

Ms. Kymer submitted the \$500 clean-up day grant application.

There was discussion about Styrofoam recycling. Since the borough does not want to go to Haskell, Ridgewood's recycling and the HUB's new densifier in Ridgefield Park will be researched.

Mr. Parker initiated a discussion about the walkability/bikeability study which had been discussed at a prior meeting. There are numerous crosswalks on North Central Avenue and none on South Central Avenue. He will create a petition for Ramsey Day.

Ms. DiPilato shared some further thoughts about her very informative research, "Food Scraps Recycling Initiative," which she presented in June. 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.

Regarding Ramsey Day, Mr. Morris reminded those in attendance that the plan had been to concentrate on just a few issues at the booth this year. As a result, the selected topics for Ramsey Day are stormwater, invasive species, Second Chance Toys, Styrofoam, food waste, and walkability/bikeability.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Knauss moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Morris, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Senior/Community Center**

