

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – JANUARY 10, 2023

Continuing into 2023, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. The January meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:33 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. Danz, Ms. DiPilato, Mrs. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Knauss, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ramiza, Council Liaison Popolo, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Knauss and Mr. Popolo are new additions to the Environmental Commission, replacing Mr. Walsh and Mr. Weber. Mr. Nerney welcomed them. Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Ramiza need to be sworn in.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laney Darmiento was unable to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Nerney, seconded by Mr. Carey, the minutes of the November 8, 2022 meeting were accepted as received. The December meeting was cancelled.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Benfanti completed the Audubon grant, and the borough has received the funds which will be used for the planting of more native plants near the Trex bench on the bikepath. A 2023 date for another meeting with the Shade Tree Commission needs to be determined. The updated Shade Tree ordinance has not yet been approved by the governing body. Ms. Benfanti also shared information about the success of the Youth Maker's Market which was held at the Farmer's Market on November 6th. The amount of money raised, \$1,500, will go to the Tommy Strong Foundation and Ramsey Responds. She mentioned wildlife photography classes (Pocket Full of Pollinators and Wildlife Photography) available through SOAR Education, offered at the Franklin Lakes library, which she would like to see brought to Ramsey. She has contacted Library Director Latham. The trees which had been taken down by the municipal pool were ash trees, all of which were infected by the emerald ash borer. She asked about the trees which had been taken down on Hubbard Lane. She also shared information about a swan

on Suraci Pond which became tangled in fishing line and was recently euthanized. New Jersey Clean Communities may have signage which could be posted by the pond.

Ms. Boone reported on the upcoming activities at the Farmers' Market. Two more businesses have joined the Green Business Recognition Program. They will receive certificates and window clings.

The train station has been painted and restored, courtesy of Farmer's Market funds. She would like to research the Historic Preservation element of the Master Plan.

Mr. Carey reviewed the latest information from the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment, both of which will not be meeting in person until April. The borough's newly hired traffic consultant will be taking a look at the Chick-Fil-A traffic situation and will eventually provide assistance with the Master Plan's Traffic and Circulation plan. He had some questions about the current status of the Recycling Committee; the committee members were asked to join the Green Team. Mr. Trouf, Recycling Coordinator, handles all questions about recycling.

The Environmental Commission/Green Team will be working on bronze Sustainable Jersey certification in 2023 since several of Ramsey's earned actions will not expire until December 2023; the group will begin with 60 of the 150 required points already earned. Topics/projects for 2023 could include water conservation (with assistance from Laney Darmiento), electric vehicles, recycling, and rain barrels.

Ms. DiPilato shared information about an organic recycling program which is taking place in Secaucus; 250 families are participating in that program.

Ms. Hudon had suggested a trip to a recycling center and had checked with Mr. Trouf about the idea. YouTube videos are available to view which show the entire process.

Sunday, April 23rd is the date scheduled for the next plastic toy collection at the Farmers' Market in conjunction with Second Chance Toys. The November collection was another successful event.

Ms. Kymer shared information about the Ramsey Hockey team's collection of used hockey equipment which was donated to the 43 Oak Foundation. She noted that Ramsey and Upper Saddle River are working together on opportunities for Styrofoam recycling. Ramsey would need to purchase the bags in which to put the Styrofoam. She will look into an upcoming date, probably using the pool parking lot.

Ms. Kundriat shared information about a storm drain and the grate which is attached to it in the Chestnut Street/Carol Street/bikepath area. She had called the

borough but follow-up with Borough Administrator Vozech and Tom Lanning of the DPW was suggested.

Mr. Morris noted that to date 103 storm drains have been adopted. His daughter, Alison, created a spreadsheet with information about the adoptions. The website continues to be operational.

The date for the annual Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 22nd, with a raindate of Sunday, April 23rd.

Mr. Parker asked when the borough's traffic consultant will begin working on the Master Plan's Traffic and Circulation element. He shared the seven specific goals for relieving congestions and improving circulation patterns which are part of the Master Plan. At the very least, he would like to see the crosswalks returned to South Central Avenue at Orchard Place which is where those using the bikepath might be crossing South Central. There also was a suggestion to have speed limits painted on the roads.

Mr. Parker suggested an electric vehicle demonstration which could be held the same weekend as Clean-Up Day and the plastic toy collection, on Sunday, April 23rd, in the afternoon. The three events could be publicized as parts of a special environmental weekend in Ramsey. It was noted that the borough has received a grant for an electric vehicle charging station.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:14 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kymer, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.