

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the February meeting was held via Zoom. The February 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, Mr. Carey, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Walsh, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Thomas were absent.

Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Nerney, and Mr. Walsh 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* and *The Ridgewood News* on December 25, 2020 and posted in the Municipal Building.

MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Kymer, seconded by Mr. Ramiza, the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting were accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The flyer about Arts Amble from the HUB was forwarded to the Commissioners.

The annual ANJEC membership was filed for 2021 and all Commissioners and Green Team members should be receiving communications from ANJEC.

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

In November, Ms. Benfanti reported on the removal of the identified invasive species which has taken place on the bikepath, courtesy of Kieran Barrett and his scouts. This work is part of the ANJEC grant. To replace the invasive species, she would like to see native species planted. Funds should be available from the grant. Other sources will be researched.

Ms. Boone reported that the outdoor Farmers' Market will remain open through the winter since the indoor market at Smith School will not open. The composting program in conjunction with MEVO will pause for the winter and resume in the spring. Some more composting barrels will be purchased for the upcoming season. Liam Curran will be at the Farmers' Market to help spread the news about the Adopt-A-Drain program. Mr. Nerney will speak with the mayor regarding Green Tree Textiles. The bins for Green Tree Textiles do not sit around; they would be removed each weekend.

Mr. Carey has updated the bikepath map and he and Mrs. Dey measured the kiosks so that he knows the size for the maps. He noted that, despite the pandemic, businesses are still coming into the borough including a wine bar which will be going into the former Sweat Spin site on Main Street. He also shared that the governor signed A-2785/S-2607, the law which states that municipalities must make climate change a part of Master Plan updates. Mr. Venturini of OEM has already been working on a plan for climate change. Outdoor dining can re-open on Monday, March 1st.

Mrs. Dey provided a Sustainable Jersey update. Ramsey will work on silver certification during 2021. The three kiosks, paid for through the bikepath grant, have been received. She noted that there are three community gardens in Ramsey, including one at St. Paul's. She completed the 2020 Stormwater Education paperwork which she submitted to Borough Engineer D'Agostaro.

At the January meeting, Mr. Kehoe had shared information about Second Chance Toys which would provide an opportunity for residents to donate their no longer wanted plastic toys. Locally, the toys are collected at the recycling centers in Fair Lawn and Paramus. Ms. Boone and Mrs. Dey had discussed having a plastic toy drive at the Farmers' Market during the summer.

Ms. Kundriat recommended David Attenborough's book, *A Life on Our Planet*.

Under the direction of Ms. Kymer, the Styrofoam collection took place in Ramsey and Upper Saddle River on Saturdays, December 12, December 19, January 2, and January 9. Due to work being done at Poly Molding, the collected Styrofoam is still at the pool. She shared information about Styrofoam work being done through the Bergen HUB including regional collections. She will be leading the next meeting of the HUB on Monday, February 22nd. She will forward the Zoom information so that any interested Commissioners/Green Team members can attend. Liam Curran will be presenting information about his Eagle Scout project at that meeting.

Mr. Morris provided updates about the "Adopt-A-Drain" project. More than sixty drains have been adopted. Despite the snow, adopters should be clearing their drains.

Mr. Ramiza had looked at the borough's proposed new stormwater ordinance as required by March, 2021 and determined that it is sufficient as it is.

Ms. Taylor is looking into a green business recognition program in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce as a Sustainable Jersey project. She met with Suzanne Jahn of the Chamber and there is interest in going forward with such a program.

Councilman Weber reported that the aforementioned stormwater ordinance will be passed by the governing body at its next meeting. The budget process for 2021 has just started.

NEW BUSINESS

The date for the 2021 Annual Clean-Up was discussed and Saturday, April 24th was selected. Since the event is held outdoors, it is expected that it can be held. The usual planning will begin. Ms. Kymer has the annual grant information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 via Zoom