

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 9, 2021**

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

Ms. Benfanti, Mr. Nerney, and Mr. Walsh need to be sworn in and that will be done when the Environmental Commission meets again in person.

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. Morris, the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were accepted as received.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Mrs. Dey read the e-mail from the Junior Woman's Club (President Laura Vander Veer) regarding their refreshment assistance at the clean-up.

#### **OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS**

Ms. Benfanti suggested that native species be planted on the bikepath. Funds may be available from the ANJEC grant. Other sources will be researched. She also initiated a discussion about people who do not clean up after their dogs which is a problem in some areas of the borough. There is an ordinance which covers that issue.

Ms. Boone reported on MEVO's proposed changes to the 2020 composting program. The correspondence sent from Violet Reed of MEVO was forwarded to the Environmental Commissioners and Green Team members for their consideration and input. Mr. Nerney spoke with the mayor regarding Green Tree Textiles. The issue will be looked at by Borough Attorney Scandariato.

Mr. Carey is finalizing the bikepath map which will be put in the three kiosks to be located at the pool, on Maple Street, and on Main Street by the bikepath.

Mrs. Dey provided a Sustainable Jersey update. Work continues on silver certification; the initial deadline is Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

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. Bronna Lipton of Second Chance Toys presented information about the program; her PowerPoint was forwarded to everyone. How Ramsey might participate in the program will be discussed in April.

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 ongoing Styrofoam work being done through the Bergen HUB including regional collections and equipment purchase. She led the Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the HUB. Liam Curran shared his "Adopt-A-Drain" work at that meeting. Upper Saddle River will be pursuing a similar project for their borough; Wyckoff is also looking into the program. She also noted that there are active HUB committees dealing with plastics and electric vehicles.

Mr. Morris provided some Clean-Up Day updates. Because of COVID-19, equipment will not be provided, only bags and gloves. Everyone was encouraged to help spread the word about the clean-up.

Mr. Parker asked about the bikepath map. Mr. Carey will forward the map to everyone. Mr. Parker also asked about any work on the Master Plan, but nothing further has been done.

Mr. Ramiza and Ms. Taylor provided information about the green business recognition program. They had met with Ms. Boone and Mrs. Dey to decide how best to proceed with the program. The Chamber of Commerce will be involved.

Councilman Weber reported that the budget for 2021 has a zero percent increase. The governing body is looking at ordinances regarding recreational marijuana.

## **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEWS**

### **Board of Public Works**

Mr. Nerney reported that there was information about the arsenic replacement and filtration units. There are have been some water main breaks in the borough.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 via Zoom**