

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – APRIL 13, 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the April meeting was held via Zoom. The April meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Boone, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ramiza, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Carey, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Walsh were 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 Mr. Nerney, seconded by Ms. Kymer, the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting were accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

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 may be teaching a Zoom class through the library. She will pick up the clean-up day supplies from the county.

Ms. Boone reported on MEVO's proposed changes to the 2020 composting program. Due to those requested changes, the composting program through the Farmers' Market is on hold. Mr. Nerney had spoken with the mayor regarding Green Tree Textiles. The issue is being looked at by Borough Attorney Scandariato; Mr. Nerney will check with him.

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 6th. She referenced the e-mails which she had sent regarding grants through ANJEC and thin plastics recycling.

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's PowerPoint was forwarded to everyone. How Ramsey might participate in the program will continue to be discussed. He also mentioned the collection of eyeglasses.

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 but as the pool season approaches, it needs to be moved. She presented some suggestions for new locations for storage and companies which will take the Styrofoam. She shared information about ongoing Styrofoam work being done through the Bergen HUB including regional collections and equipment purchase. She 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. Liam Curran's storm drain project is ongoing with almost ninety participants. The Shade Tree Commission had reached out to the Environmental Commission regarding trees which had been cut down in the wetlands. One option which was discussed was education regarding the Shade Tree ordinances and the rules and regulations for cutting down trees. Several Commissioners expressed interest in a subcommittee to help the Shade Tree Commission deal with the issue.

Mr. Nerney will forward an e-mail regarding Forest Management for Commission/Green Team consideration.

Work on the green business recognition program is ongoing. The Chamber of Commerce will be involved.

Councilman Weber reported on the purchase of 13 North Central Avenue which will become a home for high-functioning adults with autism.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Mr. Morris, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 via Zoom

