

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – MAY 11, 2021

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

Ms. Benfanti and Mr. Nerney had been sworn in at Clean-Up Day; Mr. Walsh will be sworn in 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Curtin, 118 Oak Ridge Road, was present to discuss the removal of trees adjacent to Green Acres in her neighborhood.

Pat Linard, 76 Sherwood Drive, was also in attendance.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Nerney, seconded by Ms. Boone, the minutes of the April 13, 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

Clean-Up Day 2021 was very successful. One hundred seventy-six volunteers collected thirty-three bags of recyclables and fifty-one bags of garbage, according to the DPW. The usual grant work will be submitted. Mr. Nerney thanked everyone who was involved with the annual event.

Ms. Benfanti had suggested that native species be planted on the bikepath. She had been contacted by Lori Kriz, the Girl Scout leader with whom she worked on the milkweed/monarch butterflies project; her troop is once again looking for a project. Funds (\$500) have been supplied by the Farmers' Market, courtesy of Ms. Boone.

Mr. Nerney had spoken with the mayor and Borough Attorney Scandariato regarding Green Tree Textiles. There is a borough ordinance which will be looked into further.

Mr. Carey is finalizing the bikepath map which will be put in the three kiosks to be located on Maple Street, on Main Street by the bikepath, and on Addison Place by Interstate. He also will be helping to decide where the additional signage from the grant will be located in the borough. The Trex bench on the bikepath had been vandalized and Mr. Carey cleaned it up. He further reported on Planning Board activities, noting that there are many businesses coming into Ramsey. He will cover both the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment for the Environmental Commission.

Mrs. Dey provided a Sustainable Jersey update. Work continues on silver certification; the initial submission deadline is Sunday, June 6th. The bikepath grant money was only enough for the purchase of three kiosks and one matching post. Tommy Lanning of the DPW and Borough Administrator Vozech discussed options for the two other posts and decided that borough funds could be used for the purchase of two additional matching posts.

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. The first collection of toys could take place at the Farmers' Market on a to-be-determined date.

Ms. Kundriat will be the contact for the Community Gardens action for Sustainable Jersey.

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 could not go there but it needed to be moved from the pool storage room. It was moved to the Community Center and then, courtesy of Roger Knauss, Ms. Kymer, and Ms. Taylor, approximately eighty bags of Styrofoam were moved to the truck which was supplied by the Upper Saddle River DPW for transport to its next destination. Information about Oakland's upcoming Styrofoam collection was sent out via e-mail blast.

Liam Curran's storm drain project is ongoing with approximately ninety participants. At the April meeting, it was noted that 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. Plans for a meeting will be developed soon.

Mr. Nerney had forwarded the e-mail regarding Forest Management for Commission/Green Team consideration. He has not heard from Ramsey High School regarding the annual scholarship. Mrs. Dey will check with the secretary there.

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

Councilman Weber reported on the Oakland Styrofoam collection, shredding day (May 15th), the tonnage grant of \$37,674 from the 2018 numbers, the \$72,000 open space grant for pickleball courts at Finch Park, and Executive Order 238 providing a COVID-19 update.

NEW BUSINESS

The July meeting will be cancelled and beginning in August meetings will be in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 via Zoom