

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2022

At least until the end of 2022, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom. The August meeting of the Ramsey Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairman Nerney at 7:32 p.m. Also present were Ms. Boone, Mr. Carey, Ms. Danz, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Benfanti, Ms. Hudon, Mr. Kehoe, and Mr. Parker were absent.

In accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, public notice of the meeting was published in *The Record* on Thursday, December 23, 2021 and *The Ridgewood News* on Friday, December 24, 2021 and posted in the Municipal Building.

MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Boone, seconded by Mr. Nerney, the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were accepted as received. The July meeting had been 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 it was approved. The borough has not yet received payment. She planted native plants near the Trex bench on the bikepath and would like to plant more in late summer using the funds from that grant. The Shade Tree Commission's revised tree removal ordinance is being written by Borough Attorney Scandariato. The borough's CFO, Denise Bartalotta, shared information with Mrs. Dey about free milkweed seeds which will be available at Ramsey Day if they arrive in time.

Ms. Boone noted that there are interns from MEVO at the Farmers' Market. The market is participating in table to table at the end of the day.

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, 2023. A lot of new businesses are coming into Ramsey, including Urgent Care, Happy Paws in the Weichert building, a private wine storage facility on Williams Drive, and a women's clothing store. The borough's newly-hired traffic consultant will be taking a look at the Chick-Fil-A traffic situation and will provide assistance with the Master Plan's Traffic and Circulation plan. Construction has begun on Wawa at the former Cury's site on Route 17.

Ms. Hudon spearheaded the environmental display using the case on the first floor at borough hall. She will be changing the items to keep it current. The Board of Health and the Shade Tree Commission have provided pertinent information for the display case.

Sunday, November 13th is the date scheduled for the next plastic toy collection in conjunction with Second Chance Toys.

Ms. Kundriat will be bringing a spotted lanternfly in a jar to Ramsey Day. The invasive insect does considerable damage to its host plants and should be killed wherever it is found.

Ms. Kymer reported that Tucker Zengerle who had attended an Environmental Commission meeting in October, 2020 would like to come to the September meeting. In 2020, he shared his considerable knowledge about water harvesting systems.

She also provided information about an upcoming county purchase of a Styrofoam densifier. She would like to schedule a collection at a later date.

Mr. Morris has been in touch with Liam Curran and his father regarding the “Adopt-A-Storm-Drain” website which has been down. Once it is operational again, there will be a push to have people adopt a drain. That push will continue at Ramsey Day. A rain barrel will be given to the resident who comes up with the best name for their newly-adopted drain. Ms. Kymer will prepare a water conservation display board for Ramsey Day which is particularly pertinent due to the current need for water conservation. The Bergen County Utilities Authority has discounted rain barrels.

Mr. Nerney reported that Ramsey Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th, with a raindate of Sunday, September 11th. The schedule for booth coverage (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) will be e-mailed to the Environmental Commissioners/Green Team.

Councilman Weber reported on the sale of 13 North Central Avenue to Ramsey Housing, Inc., to provide an independent living facility for individuals with development disabilities. He was not sure whether Ramsey residents will get preference.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Walsh, and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

