

RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Beginning in April, the Environmental Commission meetings are being held in the Senior/Community Center. The September 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. DiPilato, Ms. Kundriat, Mr. Knauss, Mr. Ramiza, Council Liaison Popolo, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Morris, 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 Wednesday, December 7, 2022 and *The Ridgewood News* on Friday, December 9, 2022 and posted in the Municipal Building.

MINUTES

Mr. Carey corrected the information regarding Developments/Site Plans. On motion by Mr. Knauss, seconded by Ms. Kymer, the minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting were accepted as corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Celestine Taieb, founder of Source Compost, was present to explain her compost pick-up service. She will be using lock-tight galvanized steel buckets. She will be charging \$17 per pick-up/\$48 per month. The food scraps which are collected will go to Nine Lives Farm in Washington, New Jersey. Ms. DiPilato shared the work which she has done with the food scraps recycling initiative. Ms. Taieb will be at the Farmers' Market on Sunday, October 8th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Dey read a thank you from Marc Jachzel. The Environmental Commission/Green Team provided \$200 for his Eagle Scout project, monofilament disposal containers. There also was a donation from the Farmers' Market.

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

OLD BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER/GREEN TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Benfanti will be using the Audubon grant money for the next planting that she will do. She is looking into planting a certified garden. The library had a program which was presented by a native gardener which was very well attended.

The next Makers Market will be at the Farmers' Market on Sunday, October 15th.

Ms. Boone noted that Ramsey withdrew its application with regard to the Data Center tower which is going up in Mahwah.

She had spoken with Mark Olson from Ridgefield Park about Creative Bergen which would be a good way to earn Sustainable Jersey points. There is a meeting in Ridgefield Park on Tuesday, September 19th which she may attend. Two performers from Ramsey will be participating in the Bergen Busking Festival on Saturday, September 30th. Mr. and Mrs. Olson would be happy to speak at an upcoming Environmental Commission/Green Team meeting.

Sunday, November 12th is the selected date for the pre-holiday plastic toys collection at the Farmers' Market.

Mrs. Dey submitted 170 points for Bronze Certification by the July Sustainable Jersey deadline. Ramsey was just awarded Bronze Certification, with the successful completion of 175 points! Ramsey's silver certification is good through 2024; the bronze certification is good through 2026.

Mr. Carey shared background information about the little pond off of the bikepath near the Trex bench. He and Ms. Benfanti walked the area. He suggested that the Environmental Commission/Green Team look into some type of project for that area, possibly a passive recreation park. More information is needed about the site, including the permits which would be necessary. Perhaps its clean-up could be linked with the 20th clean-up in 2024.

The payment of the \$500 clean-up day grant was received by the borough.

Ms. Kymer also spoke to Mark Olson from Ridgefield Park, regarding the Styrofoam densifier. There is a grand opening/ribbon-cutting on Wednesday, September 27th. The governing body is invited to attend. Since the county paid 95% of the cost, currently there will be no charge for municipalities to use the machine. A municipality's employee will run the Styrofoam through the machine. The Styrofoam must be clean and be brought to Ridgefield Park in plastic bags. An eight-yard bin, costing approximately \$2,000, is suggested to collect the Styrofoam.

Ms. DiPilato is waiting to see what the decision of the borough is with regard to the food scraps recycling. The goal is to set up a drop-off location/locations for food scraps in the borough. The availability of grants will be looked into.

Regarding Ramsey Day, Mr. Nerney noted that it again was a successful event. The decision to concentrate on just a few issues at the booth this year was a good one. As a result, the selected topics for Ramsey Day were stormwater, invasive species, Second Chance Toys, Styrofoam, food waste, and walkability/bikeability. It was noted that education about many of these topics is something the Environmental Commission/Green

Team should be emphasizing. Ms. Benfanti shared information about a storm drain art contest.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Mr. Knauss, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Senior/Community Center**