

## **RAMSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2022**

At least until the end of 2022, the Environmental Commission meetings will be held via Zoom. The October 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. Danz, Ms. DiPilato, Mr. Kehoe, Ms. Kundriat, Ms. Kymer, Mr. Parker, Mr. Ramiza, Mr. Walsh, Council Liaison Weber, and Mrs. Dey, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Hudon and Mr. Morris were absent. Ms. DiPilato, who was recruited at Ramsey Day, was welcomed to the Green Team.

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.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laney Darmiento who is serving as the Northern Source Water Protection Ambassador with Americorps under the NJWAP program was in attendance to share the particulars of her job and to offer her assistance wherever possible. Community outreach is a key component of her job. The Water Champions Initiative is one program which she mentioned.

#### **MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Nerney, seconded by Ms. Kymer, the minutes of the August 9, 2022 meeting were accepted as received. Due to a lack of quorum, the September 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**

The Environmental Commission/Green Team booth at Ramsey Day was well-attended. Mr. Nerney thanked everyone who helped that day. The highlight of the booth was Ms. Kundriat's spotted lanternfly specimen. It was suggested that in 2023 the amount of literature be limited to those issues which are specific concerns of the group. Storm drains were adopted, and the rain barrel was won by Fred and Joan Waring. New Jersey does have a rain barrel program which could be researched and put in place in Ramsey. The Bergen County Utilities Authority has discounted rain barrels.

There was a discussion about enforcement of the water restrictions in the borough. There is an ordinance which must be followed but is there a warning, is there a fine, who is responsible for enforcement?

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 using the funds from that grant. She asked if another meeting with the Shade Tree Commission could be set up in 2023. Mrs. Dey will check with Mr. Melso. Ms. Benfanti also shared information about a Youth Maker's Market which will be held at the Farmer's Market on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The money which is raised will go to the Tommy Strong Foundation and Ramsey Responds.

Ms. Boone reported on the upcoming activities at the Farmers' Market. She and Mrs. Dey will try to get more participants in the Green Business Recognition Program.

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. 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. The landscape plan for the car wash on Route 17N was revised.

Ms. Danz expects to be at the plastic toy collection to assist with the toy delivery to Fair Lawn. She will make some signs about the collection to be put in store fronts.

Mrs. Dey encouraged the group to earn bronze Sustainable Jersey certification in 2023 since several of Ramsey's earned actions will not expire until December 2023. Alison Morris has created a spreadsheet which captures the diversity/lack of diversity on the various borough boards and commissions. In January, the spreadsheet will be forwarded to Commission/Green Team members so that the information can be analyzed, and recommendations developed.

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> is the date scheduled for the next plastic toy collection at the Farmers' Market in conjunction with Second Chance Toys. Mr. Kehoe also noted that garbage has not yet been picked up at the Mavis Tire site.

Ms. Kundriat brought a spotted lanternfly to Ramsey Day. The invasive insect does considerable damage to its host plants and should be killed wherever it is found. There appears to be a bird which is a predator of the insect. Ms. Kundriat was selected as the Environmental Commission/Green Team Volunteer of the Year.

Ms. Kymer reported that Tucker Zengerle expects to come to an upcoming meeting. He had attended an Environmental Commission meeting in October, 2020 at

which he shared his considerable knowledge about water harvesting systems. The HUB will be meeting in person in Wyckoff on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

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. Parker covered several issues of importance including charging stations for electric vehicles, clean fleets, Complete Streets, walkability/bikeability in Ramsey. There are grants available for the charging stations. It would be helpful to know where the borough is looking at placing charging stations. The information which he shared follows.

Sustainable Jersey-Make your town EV Friendly

[https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Grants\\_and\\_Resources/Past\\_Webinars\\_Trainings/Energy/Make\\_Your\\_Town\\_EV\\_Friendly\\_Webinar\\_12.7.21.pdf](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Grants_and_Resources/Past_Webinars_Trainings/Energy/Make_Your_Town_EV_Friendly_Webinar_12.7.21.pdf)

[https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions\\_and\\_Certification/Actions/Make\\_Your\\_Town\\_EV\\_Friendly/Guidance\\_for\\_Creating\\_EV\\_Friendly\\_Ordinance\\_V.1\\_April\\_2017\\_1\\_.pdf](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Make_Your_Town_EV_Friendly/Guidance_for_Creating_EV_Friendly_Ordinance_V.1_April_2017_1_.pdf)

[https://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/?type=1336777436&tx\\_sjcert\\_action%5BactionObject%5D=520&tx\\_sjcert\\_action%5Baction%5D=getPDF&tx\\_sjcert\\_action%5Bcontroller%5D=Action&cHash=b2c1d6dc76e16591db0b9214d361b454](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions/?type=1336777436&tx_sjcert_action%5BactionObject%5D=520&tx_sjcert_action%5Baction%5D=getPDF&tx_sjcert_action%5Bcontroller%5D=Action&cHash=b2c1d6dc76e16591db0b9214d361b454)

[https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions\\_and\\_Certification/Actions/Energy/Accelerating\\_the\\_EV\\_Transition\\_slides.pdf](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Energy/Accelerating_the_EV_Transition_slides.pdf)

NJ DCA *P.L. 2021, c.171, Sample EV Ordinance*

[https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlps/pdf/modelEVordinance\\_08321\\_FinalDraft.docx](https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlps/pdf/modelEVordinance_08321_FinalDraft.docx)

O&R EV Rebates

<https://www.oru.com/en/our-energy-future/technology-innovation/electric-vehicles/new-york/commercial-ev-drivers>

Councilman Weber reported that water usage fees will be going up.

There is no schedule yet for the Streetscape repairs.

He shared information about third graders raising money for recycling efforts and the purchase of new recycling barrels for the borough.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Commission, Mr. Nerney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Carey, and passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**