

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Business Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

Date: Monday, January 24, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Wyckoff Town Hall, 340 Franklin Ave., Wyckoff, NJ Ladderback Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Denise Capparelli, Wyckoff Environmental Commission Secretary. Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Commission Secretary Denise Capparelli

“The January 24, 2022 Public Business Meeting of the Wyckoff Environmental Commission is now in session. In accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to advise that notice of this meeting has been posted in the lower level of the Memorial Town Hall and that copy of the annual schedule of meetings has also been filed with the Township Clerk, and copies of this agenda and the annual notice of meetings, of which this is a part, have been heretofore sent to the *Ridgewood News*, *The Record*, and the *North Jersey Herald and News*, all papers with general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff.” Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

ROLL CALL:

✦ Present: Denise Capparelli, Danyel Competiello, Beth Fischer, Lisa Koeber, Roger Lane, Mae Bogdansky, Ben Weiner, and Township Committee Liaison Pete Melchionne; Jr Commissioners: Sebastian Dash, Eve Nevelos, Justin Sullivan

Absent: Cynthia Phillips

Green Team Volunteers attending: Stanley Goodman, JR. Frank

Motion to approve minutes from the December 20, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Lane Second: Koeber

Board Liaison Bogdansky Y Competiello Abstain Fischer Y Koeber Y Lane Y

Phillips Absent/Abstain Weiner Abstain

I. Priority Review Items

- a. Ms. Capparelli introduced and welcomed new Commissioners and Jr. Commissioners and welcomed back re-appointed Commissioners. Mr. Lane made a motion to elect Beth Fischer as the new Chairperson of the Commission for 2022. All in favor.
- b. Chairwoman Fischer discussed the Sustainable Jersey program and gave a brief overview of the program requirements and certification process mentioning that the Township Silver Certification expires December 2022. Mrs. Fischer will send Commissioners information to get started on what is expected to renew certification. More information to follow at the February meeting.
- c. Mrs. Fischer and Ms. Capparelli attended the webinar hosted by Sustainable Jersey (SJ) on a new program, the SJ/ Montclair Sustainable Communities Partnership Program, that matches students from Montclair University with municipalities to assist on SJ certification action requirements. Mrs. Fischer recommended that the Commission participate in program to utilize volunteer students with help on achieving Wyckoff's SJ recertification actions. Ms. Capparelli will contact Montclair regarding registering for the program.

II. Planning Board – no reports

III. Grant Programs for 2022:

- a. Sustainable Jersey/PSEG now open. Deadline to apply is February 11, 2022. At this time there are no plans to apply for this grant.
- b. Chairwoman Fischer would like the Commission to apply for funding from the 2022 ANJEC \$1500 Local Open Space Stewardship Grant fund for open space projects. Ms. Fischer recommended applying for funds to update new signage at the Russell Farms Park. Mrs. Fischer will work with Ms. Capparelli to apply for the grant funding.

IV. New Business

- a. Team Up to Tidy up is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd. It will commence at Town Hall. Commissioners and Jr. Commissioners will be expected to attend and volunteer.

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Business Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

- b. Shred Fest is scheduled for Friday, April 22nd. Environmental Commissioners and Green Team volunteers can resume volunteering. Mr. Melchionne suggested having the *Fall* Shred Fest on a Saturday per resident requests to allow for working families to participate.
- c. Mr. Melchionne will confirm the Spring Styrofoam Collection event with the Township Committee.
- d. Chairwoman Fischer stated that the main goal for 2022 is the completion of the Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification. She would like to apply for the Silver status again. Mrs. Fischer gave a brief overview of the SJ process. Mrs. Fischer also stated she would like to hold a compost event in the Spring. All in favor.
- e. Commissioner Weiner would like to get more information on Wyckoff's recycling tonnage rate and its comparison with waste collection in order to meter the recyclables/waste collections.. Mr. Weiner would like to revisit why residents are allowed to set out up to 8 garbage cans per household. He feels this promotes more waste. Mr. Melchionne stated that 8 cans equate to 8 items. For example, discarding a small bulk item counts as one of the 8 cans.
- f. Mrs. Fischer reported that the Chamber of Commerce was giving away welcome bags and she recommended WEC include an insert with information about recycling, Recycle Coach, etc. Ms. Koeber offered to put together the information. She will send to Ms. Capparelli to have printed.
- g. Mr. Weiner will attend the online ANJEC Local Planning for Climate Change webinar on Jan.27.
- h. Ms. Capparelli reported that she updated the Environmental/Green Team page of the website.
- i. Mrs. Fischer and Mr. Melchionne will discuss meeting with Township Committee members to discuss teaming up with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the new plastic reduction law and its impact on local business. Mrs. Fischer commented that the Oakland Environmental Commission implemented a Green Business Styrofoam Program with 37 businesses participating. It was agreed that the challenge will be finding alternative sources for non-plastic food packaging. She recommended that Commissioners look into the Oakland program to get some ideas.
- j. Mrs. Fischer inquired about the 2022 WEC budget, what is the total budget.

V. Other Business

- a. Mr. Weiner reported that he has been unable to attend the Bergen SJ HUB meetings as they have conflicted with the Wyckoff WEC meetings. He did report that he learned through the SJ HUB Plastic subcommittee that enforcement of the new plastic bag reduction law will be managed through the county Dept. of Health. SJ HUB is offering some information about assisting municipalities with transitioning fleet vehicles to electric vehicles and installation of EVCS.
- b. Mrs. Fischer reported that the schools are gearing up and planning for earth day activities and events. She reported that Eisenhower Middle School has started an environmental club this year.
- c. Recycle Coach App update for December 2021 was 46 new subscribers with a 2021 total of 928 new subscribers.
- d. BCUA 2022 Collection events: Household Hazardous Waste March 12, 2022- Moonachie, Tires/Electronics- April 24, 2022- Paramus
- e. Jr. Commissioner Projects- Mrs. Fischer informed Jr. Commissioners to look into sustainable issues and topics and to start thinking about an area they are interested in for their projects.
- f. Mr. Lane volunteered to represent WEC and assist with the FLOW Green Film Fest. Green Team volunteer JR. Frank confirmed there is interest in holding this successful program again in 2022.

VI. Green Team Volunteer Approved Activities/Comments-

VII. Next meeting – February 28, 2022 – 7:00pm Town Hall Upstairs Ladderback Meeting Room

VIII. Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion to adjourn by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mrs. Bogdanský was passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary