

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2019

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2019
TIME 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyckoff Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Beth Fischer, Robert Fortunato (Planning Board Liaison), Celeste Homaychak, Christine Key, Peter Melchionne, Chairman; Melissa Rubenstein (Township Committeewoman)

Jr Commissioners: John Cannizzo, Camille Dash, Christopher Keary, Ashley Park

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Commissioner Matt Cascio, Jr. Commissioners: Dan O’Connell, Jasmine Ho, Nick Rea and Jack Stathis,

GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS PRESENT John Adams, JR Frank, Alex Sullivan

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Melchionne

The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Commissioner and WEC Secretary Denise Capparelli:

“The February 25, 2019 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 that 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 was taken.

Motion to approve revised minutes from the January 28, 2018 meeting as amended

Motion: Homaychak Second: Key
Capparelli Y Cascio Y Fischer Y Fortunato Abstain Homaychak Y
Key Y Melchionne Y

PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Sustainable Jersey Recertification - Due to time constraints, Chairman Melchionne recommended to Commissioners and Green Team Volunteers to submit in writing *at least 10 days before the next* meeting to all Commissioners any business items that will take more than two (2) minutes to discuss at the meeting.
2. Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) project – Commissioner Capparelli distributed a copy of the ERI to all WEC members. Commissioner Fortunato commended Commissioner Capparelli for her hard work and long hours dedicated to coordinating the production of the ERI.
3. Sustainable Jersey 2019 Grant Program – Chairman Melchionne reported that the Bergen Hub Food Waste Program was not approved by the Township Committee due to health concerns and many unknown costs to operate. Chairman Melchionne reported the re-usable shopping bag small grant for \$2,000 was approved by the Township Committee. Chairman Fortunato reported that the Sustainable Jersey grant was submitted and SJ will announce award recipients sometime in April.

NEW BUSINESS

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1. Team Up to Tidy Up- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the T-Shirts have arrived and a sample was displayed to the Commissioners. Commissioners complimented Jr. Commissioner Ashley Park for her creative design that was used for the T-shirt. Commissioner Melchionne mentioned that volunteers are needed for TUTU and Shredfest. Sign up sheets are available at the end of the meeting to sign up. Commissioner Key mentioned that a local Girl Scout troop was interested in volunteering. Township Committeewoman Rubenstein confirmed that a Daisy Troop from Coolidge School is interested in volunteering. Information on the TUTU event for the troop leader was previously sent to Ms. Rubenstein
2. Shredfest Day – scheduled for April 27- 8:30 am – 11:30am. A sign-up sheet is available for volunteering.
3. Township Zero Waste Program- no updates
4. Commissioner Capparelli reported that ANJEC is holding a training workshop called *Fundamentals for Effective Commissioners* on March 2 in Fair Lawn.
5. ANJEC 2019 Grant Opportunity- Commissioner Capparelli reported that ANJEC has announced a 2019 Open Space Stewardship Grant for Environmental Commissioners. The grant deadline is April 15th. If any Commissioners have suggestions for applying for the grant, please let us know. Copies of the instructions/requirements were distributed to all WEC/Green Team volunteers.
6. FLOW Film Festival- Green Team volunteer JR Frank reported he will provide an updated official flyer with more details about the movies by the end of the week. The dates are 3 Thursdays and 1 Friday – March 14, 22, 28 and April 4th.
7. Chairman Melchionne reported, per the request of the Township Administrator, Bob Shannon, an Environmental Commission member to develop informational bulletins, possibly a presentation or video about Household Hazardous Waste utilizing information from the BCUA for public awareness. Commissioners can send their ideas to Chairman Melchionne. Public Outreach/PSA may be eligible for SJ Action points.
8. Chairman Melchionne reported that per the existing direction of the Township Administrator, all social media/website requests will go through his Assistant, Nancy Cole, cc: Commissioner Capparelli. Commissioners should submit requests for approval in a reasonable amount of time, preferable at the beginning of the work week, Monday, and upload to the website by Friday. Commissioner Homaychak made a suggestion that Commissioners send in their request in a well-organized, easy bulleted format final copy. Chairman Melchionne confirmed all 2018 Jr. Commissioners presentations are posted on the Township web page.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dual Days Recycling Weekly Challenge- Commissioner Capparelli stated she will send everyone the February numbers when she receives them.
2. Recycle Coach App- Commissioner Capparelli reported that 105 new subscribers enlisted in January 2019 for a total of 1,106 subscriber's year to date since August 2018.
3. Monarch Butterfly Sign- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the project is still incomplete and has been given to Commissioner Capparelli. She is awaiting final artwork from Wendy Rosica and will move ahead with ordering the signage as soon as it is revised.

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Robert Fortunato reported little activity for the general application process. A Dairy Queen generator has been approved and is currently underway.

NEXT MEETING – March 18, 2019 at 7:00pm to be held in the Ladder Back Room, Second Fl. Town Hall.

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TASK FORCE ITEMS:

COMMUNITY - Partnership and Outreach, Diversity & Equity, Health and Wellness, Food, Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation. *Commissioner Key, Commissioner Cascio, Commissioner Homaychak, Commissioner Beth Fischer, John Adams*

Green Team Volunteers – see updates below

1. Green Team Volunteers – JR Frank reported that the official flyer for the FLOW film series will be available by the end of the week. Commissioner Fortunato mentioned that there will be a presentation of electric vehicles from local automotive dealers at the April 4th FLOW film. Green Team volunteer John Adams reported there is not enough time to submit an application to participate in the Styrofoam Recycling Depot
2. Wyckoff School's Green WEC/WGT Liaison Report – Commissioner Beth Fischer gave the following report on the schools:
 - a. Sicomac School will be donating Terra Cycle bags to all student's families and faculty members funded through the grant from the BCUA. The bags are utilized to encourage families to collect specific recyclable items (food, oral care & makeup packaging). Since 2009 the school raised \$700 of which the monies go back into the PTO Environmental Committee.
 - b. Ms. Fischer mentioned bottle caps were being recycled and used for artwork displayed in the school's Multipurpose Room. Displayed Collection bins can be found in the school as well as in the Wyckoff Library.
3. Mayor's Wellness Committee (a component of Sustainable Jersey) – Commissioner Homaychak sent an email and awaiting a response from Mayor Madigan if we are re-instating or creating a new site. The existing Facebook site has about 250 followers.
4. Monarch Butterfly Garden - Commissioner Capparelli reported that the project is still incomplete and she is awaiting final artwork revisions from Wendy Rosica. When complete, the sign will be installed in the Spring
5. Anti-Idling- Green Team volunteer Alex Sullivan presented his Anti-Idling resolution to Committeewoman Melissa Rubenstein and Chairman Melchionne for consideration at the 3/5/19 Township Committee meeting. Committeewoman questioned if it was needed as there is already a state anti-idling law. Commissioner Key stated that it was previously discussed with former Township Committee Liaison Tom Madigan and that this is a resolution of support to comply with SJ Certification requirements. A suggestion was made that the Wyckoff Police do a public service announcement and possibly a brief appearance on Eisenhower ETV. Commissioner Homaychak inquired if there was a Safety officer who would be a direct contact.

SJ BERGEN HUB UPDATES

1. As reported by Commissioner Key, the Bergen Hub just celebrated their one-year anniversary. The January meeting was held in Leonia. It was reported that Leonia adopted a Styrofoam ban led by the local Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Troop in Leonia is leading a styrofoam ban in local schools. They are working on a "Metered Garbage" ordinance (not "Pay As You Throw") which will result in a cost savings of \$50,000 in tipping fees per year. Commissioner Key to report necessary additional information.
2. *Next Bergen Hub meeting:* February 28, Ramsey Town Hall, 7:00pm. Hackensack Riverkeepers Group will be presenting. Featured speaker is Caitlyn Doran.

BUILDING AND ENERGY - Energy Efficiency, Green House Gas/Municipal Carbon Footprint, Green Design, Innovative Demonstration Projects. *Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Hoogerheyde, JR Frank, Mark Niederman*

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1. As reported by Chairman Melchionne - Mark Niederman, representing the Environmental Commission, coordinated a NJ Clean Energy Commercial & Industrial Program in association with the Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce to be held on Thursday, Feb. 28th at the Larkin House. All are welcome to attend. Commissioner Key thanked the Jr. Commissioners for posting the flyers to 13 businesses in town.
2. Commissioner Capparelli reported she is working with task force and Township Administrator, Bob Shannon, on Energy Tracking/Mgmt., Energy Efficiency for Municipalities and possible points for new On-Site Solar System Actions.

LAND USE AND LOCAL BUSINESS - Land Use & Transportation, Local Economies, Natural Resources, and Animals in the Community. *Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Hoogerheyde, Chairman Melchionne, Ryan Lewis, Dan O'Connell*

- 1 Jr. Commissioner, Dan O'Connell, is working with Task Force lead on Actions #47N, 51N, 52N
- 2 Commissioner Fortunato and JR Frank working on electric cars for FLOW Film

WASTE MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES – *Chairman Melchionne, Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Cascio, John Adams, Nick Rea, Jasmine Ho.*

- 1 Green Team volunteer John Adams reported there is not enough time to submit an application for the Styrofoam Recycling Depot and a complete report to the Township to utilize the Recycling Center. He will continue to work on Household Hazardous Waste (smoke detector/electronic waste). (The Township already collects E-waste)
- 2 Commissioner Key reported on Jr. Commissioner Jasmine Ho's Re-usable Shopping Bag project. The contest flyer was approved by the Township Administrator and will be included in the school's Friday folder for 2 weeks (March 1 and 8) once approved by the Board of Ed. The contest deadline is March 15. The winning slogan will be used on the new re-usable bag. Prizes were donated by the Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Ho is working on a survey and fact sheet for the website. Commissioner Fortunato mentioned the grant decision will be some time in April and they will await to see if the grant was awarded for this project.
- 3 As reported by Commissioner Key, Nick Rea, Jr. Commissioner is coordinating an educational workshop on leaf composting scheduled for March 30 at 10am (location TBD - possibly Russell Farms Community Park, Zabriskie House or The Gardens at Wyckoff or the Rain Gardens at the library) Commissioner Key will follow up with Mr. Shannon regarding a possible location and policy for using Township property for events. Nick has reached out to BCUA and Rutgers for assistance with the workshop. Nick confirmed composters for sale at the workshop with Committeeman Brian Scanlan. Additionally, Nick initiated composting and signage at his high school, Bergen Academies. Bergen Academies now has composting bins in one of the cafeterias

MEDIA AND PRESS RELATIONS – *Commissioner Homaychak, Commissioner Key.*

Commissioner Homaychak requested removing "Twitter" from the WEC website as there is no separate page for the WEC. Ms. Homaychak posted on Wyckoff moms about answering questions pertaining to recyclables, proper recycling dates, schedules and the use of the Recycle Coach App.

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli

Denise Capparelli, Commissioner/Secretary
Wyckoff Environmental Commission