

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**April 15, 2019**

**DATE:** Monday, April 15, 2019  
**TIME** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Wyckoff Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Beth Fischer, Celeste Homyachak, Christine Key, Chairman Peter Melchionne

**STUDENT JR COMMISSIONERS:** Dan O'Connell, Jasmine Ho, Christopher Keary, John Cannizzo, RHS; Camille Dash, RHS; Ashley Park, BCTECH

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Robert Fortunato (Planning Board Liaison), Melissa Rubenstein, Township Committeewoman, Jr Commissioner Nick Rea

**GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS PRESENT:** none

**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 April 15, 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 minutes from the March 15, 2019 meeting as amended**

Motion: Capparelli Second: Homyachak  
Capparelli Y Fischer Y Fortunato Absent Homyachak Y  
Key Y Melchionne Y Rubenstein

**PRIORITY ITEMS:**

1. Chairman Melchionne announced that due to personal commitments, Commissioner Cascio has stepped down from his role as Environmental Commissioner. Chairman Melchionne expressed his thanks for his time and assistance while serving on the board and that Mr. Cascio will complete his commitment for previous Action submissions for the Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification.
2. Sustainable Jersey 2019 Re-Certification – Commissioner Key shared that the 2019 SJ Application Cycle Submission deadline is June 2, 2019. Ms. Key stated that “the goal is to have all actions entered into the website by the end of April, very early May.” She stated that we still have to address as a group the Green Business Recognition Award Action #90C TF#3 for 10 points. Several people have offered to help, but not lead. As we move forward, Ms. Key suggested that all team volunteers

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should meet with their Task Force Leader prior to the deadline to allow sufficient time to upload all the information into the website for the Re-certification deadline

#### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. SJ 2019 Small Grant Program (presently submitted) – Commissioner Fischer announced that the WEC received the Sustainable Jersey \$2,000 Grant award for the Re-usable Shopping Bag project and thanked all who contributed to the program, specifically Jr. Commissioner Jasmine Ho who created the project and Commissioner Fortunato for grant preparation. Commissioner Fischer stated that the grant application was revised and 300 re-usable bags will be purchased as giveaways to local shoppers and flyers and posters will be created as well as the educational documentary “Bag It” will be available to present at the local district schools
2. BCUA Environmental Awareness Grant Up to \$1,000 - Due May 3, 2019. a grant for schools that conduct activities that relate to environmental awareness. Commissioner Fischer stated that Eisenhower Middle School Science teacher, Mrs. Chen will be applying for the grant to use for native plants for their outdoor community garden. She also stated that Sicomac Elementary School Kindergarten teachers will also be applying for the grant to help fund the outdoor classroom into a “Kinder Garden” utilizing the elementary science curriculum.
3. ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant - Due April 15, 2019- Commissioner Fischer stated that due to lack of time, they were unable to submit a proposal in time. She mentioned that she had some ideas for Russell Farms Community Park for next year’s grant. Commissioner Capparelli offered to help with next year’s proposal.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Team Up to Tidy Up – Volunteers were asked to sign up for a specific task to help with at the event.
2. Shredfest Day – scheduled for April 27- 8:30 am – 11:30am. at the DPW yard, 475 West Main St.
3. Commissioner Capparelli reported that the ANJEC training workshop called *Fundamentals for Effective Commissioners* is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 in Ridgely. (Bergen County), 9:00am-1:30pm. Commissioner members of ANJEC can attend at no fee. Commissioner Capparelli distributed some information from ANJEC relating to the role of an Environmental Commissioner.
4. FLOW Film Festival- Chairman Melchionne reported that the April 4th film which included demonstrations of various manufacturers electric cars was a success. Chairman Melchionne thanked JR Frank for coordinating the event.
5. Chairman Melchionne reported that Commissioner Capparelli developed additional flyers of the BCUA Recycling events as public outreach/PSA’s that have been posted on the weekly E-News to residents.
6. Student JR Commissioner Project Topics- three Jr. Commissioners presented their project ideas as follows:
  - a. Jasmine Ho presented the final contest submissions for the Reusable Bag Slogan contest: 26 students from Eisenhower, Coolidge and Lincoln submitted their entries. 2 runner ups and 1 grand winner were chosen by the Commissioners. Prizes were donated by the Wyckoff/Midland Park Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Ho created a Google survey online about plastics. Need contest information to post on website.
  - b. Nick Rea (absent) will continue to work on Composting Initiatives and Vacation Travelers Go Green Practices highlighting hotel industry green sustainability program
  - c. Camille Dash- will meet with a representative and possible speaker from SunFarm Solar LLC , a company in Oakland, to speak at the elementary schools to students about solar energy. Chairman Melchionne stressed that a speaker is fine as long as they are educating and not selling.

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- d. Ashley Park- Create a Step By Step Recycling Coloring book for elementary students. Educate students about recycling through outreach efforts to schools & their environmental clubs
  - e. John Cannizzo- Do it yourself Recycling Center & Awareness art project for students to design their own personalized recycling crates to take home and incentivize families to recycle. It was suggested that John contact the Library Director, Laura Leonard for information about possibly using the maker space for the project.
  - f. Dan O'Connell- complete his Fleet Inventory. Commissioner Melchionne is providing information to Dan
- 7. Fishing Derby- Need volunteers. Commissioner Capparelli will speak with Fran Piskadlo at Town Hall regarding volunteers, etc.
  - 8. Wyckoff Day- Commissioner Capparelli asked about any interest in participating in Wyckoff Day this year. Chairman Melchionne mentioned the application for table reservation is due. Need volunteers. Commissioner Capparelli will follow up.
  - 9. Other Business- Commissioner Key asked if the previous Nov./Dec. 2018 minutes can be added to the website
  - 10. Stormwater P2 Theme Mural- any interest in schools doing a project for this idea?

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Dual Days Recycling Weekly Challenge- Commissioner Capparelli reported the following statistics for recycling for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2019:
  - a. Jan - 185 tons
  - b. Feb – 123 tons
  - c. Mar. –144 tons
- 2. Recycle Coach App- Commissioner Capparelli reported that 100 new subscribers enlisted in March 2019 for a total of 1270 subscribers year to date since August 2018. Commissioner Capparelli stated that there has been a big push toward re-promoting the Recycle Coach App through the Township's website, E-News and social media sites and the big increase is most likely due to the public outreach. Thank you to Nancy Cole at Town Hall for posting.
- 3. Monarch Butterfly Sign- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the sign and brochure holder have been delivered and look great! We anticipate installation from the DPW some time in May. Commissioners would like to see a PSA demonstrating some kind of sign dedication ceremony with local officials, the Commissioners, Girl Scout Troop, and Green Team volunteers involved in the project. WEC to discuss who will re-stock butterfly brochures, possibly the Girl Scout Troop.
- 4. Mayor's Wellness- Commissioner Homaychak reported that the Mayor's Wellness Facebook page was updated and demonstrating a lot of activity with many informative posts relating to National Poison Prevention Week and National Public Health week. Various posts relating to these topics as well as posts about the BCUA HHW and recycling collection events were available to the public via Facebook.

**PLANNING BOARD UPDATE** – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Robert Fortunato was absent and there are no updates at this time.

**NEXT MEETING** – May 20, 2019 at 7:00pm to be held in the Ladder Back Room, Second Fl. Town Hall.

**TASK FORCE ITEMS:**

**TASK FORCE #1 COMMUNITY** - Partnership and Outreach, Diversity & Equity, Health and Wellness, Food, Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation. *Commissioner Key, Commissioner Homaychak, Commissioner Beth Fischer, JR Frank and Alex Sullivan*

Green Team Volunteers – see updates below

- 1. Environmental Commission Green Team- no updates

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2. Wyckoff School's Green WEC/WGT Liaison Report – Commissioner Beth Fischer gave the following report on the schools:
3. Mayor's Wellness Committee (a component of Sustainable Jersey) – See report above.
4. Monarch Butterfly Garden – see report above.
5. Green Team Volunteers – Anti-Idling. – Anti-Idling. Commissioner Capparelli reported that the Anti-Idling Resolution was approved by the Township Committee at the April 16th meeting. Commissioner Key reported that Green Team volunteer Alex Sullivan ordered free anti-idling education materials from Stop the Soot/NJDEP for each school for Air Quality Awareness week April 29-May 3. Daily morning anti-idling announcements at the schools will be broadcast. Jr. Commissioners will assist in distributing anti-idling handouts during the campaign week and assist with the idling audit by counting cars idling. The data will be used as part of our SJ action requirements. Commissioner Fischer inquired if there is a WEC budget to pay for the 2,000 anti-idling stickers and 5 posters for a total cost of \$125.00. Chairman Melchionne will follow up with Township Administrator. All in favor to support expenditures and payment, pending budget availability, for anti-idling promotion supplies.
6. Flow Film Series- Chairman Melchionne reported the Flow Film series has commenced and was a great success. Chairman Melchionne attended the last event and reported there was great enthusiasm for the electric car models and demonstrations. He thanked Green Team Volunteer JR Frank for representing Wyckoff, speaking on the panel and for coordinating the successful Flow Film Series.

**SJ BERGEN HUB UPDATES**

As reported by Commissioner Key, the March meeting was held in Ridgefield Park. The Bergen Hub decided to meet every other month going forward, therefore there will not be a meeting in April. Next meeting on Monday, May 13, 7:30-9pm @ Glen Rock Arboretum - Environmental Education Center (460 Doremus Ave, Featured Topics: Plastic bags & RGEA.

**TASK FORCE # 2 BUILDING AND ENERGY** - Energy Efficiency, Green House Gas/Municipal Carbon Footprint, Green Design, Innovative Demonstration Projects. *Commissioner Capparelli, Mark Niederman, John Cannizzo*

1. Commissioner Capparelli reported she is working with task force volunteers Mark Niederman on the Energy Tracking/Mgmt. action to develop a Building Inventory to monitor energy usage. As part of the Energy for Municipal Buildings Action, an energy audit was conducted by Lime Energy, a certified contractor with Direct Install at some of the Township public facilities. The Township is awaiting a report of the audit. The Township is also applying for an LGEA audit conducted by TRC, through the NJ Clean Energy Program. The Township will apply for possible points for new On-Site Solar System Actions for municipal solar powered equipment.

**TASK FORCE # 3 LAND USE AND LOCAL BUSINESS** - Land Use & Transportation, Local Economies, Natural Resources, and Animals in the Community. *Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Capparelli, Dan O'Connell, JR Frank*

1. Commissioner Capparelli reported the Sustainable Land Use Pledge ordinance and ERI actions have been completed. Commissioner Capparelli stated that the Township will now apply for the new Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance action (85A) for 10 points and it has been added to the list of actions for Re-Certification.
2. Best Land Use Practices for Sustainable Building Report(2016)-JR Frank/Commissioner Fortunato- no updates at this time.

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- 3 Green Business Recognition- Commissioner Key stated that Green Business Recognition Award Action #90C TF#3 for 10 points still needs to be addressed. Several people have offered to help, but not lead.

**TASK FORCE # 4 WASTE MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES** – *Chairman Melchionne, Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Homyachak, John Adams, Nick Rea, Jasmine Ho.*

- 1 Green Team volunteer John Adams Household Hazardous Waste (smoke detector/electronic waste). (The Township already collects E-waste)- no update
- 2 Commissioner Key previously reported on Jr. Commissioner Jasmine Ho's Re-usable Shopping Bag project.
- 3 HHW bulletin created by Commissioner Capparelli promoted the BCUA HHW collection dates. The next collections are May 11 and July 20th, Mahwah, June 23rd, Paramus
- 4 Commissioner Fischer reported that Jr. Commissioner Nick Rea conducted a great Composting workshop. Mr. from Partners in Pride and Carol, an Environmental Commissioner/Green Team Volunteer from Oakland gave interesting and informative information about various ways to compost. Ashley Park created a survey for composting and received 182 responses. She will tabulate a report as part of the Sustainable Jersey action submission.
- 5 Shredfest- volunteers to meet at DPW garage at 8:15 am.
- 6 Recycling Road Shows – no updates
- 7 Re-usable Bag – as reported above under Jr. Commissioner project updates
- 8 Township Zero Waste Program- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the Township successfully continues its Zero Waste program to reduce and recycle paper/cardboard waste material and compost coffee grinds.

**TASK FORCE # 5 MEDIA AND PRESS RELATIONS** – *Commissioner Homyachak, Commissioner Key.*  
Ms. Homyachak reported that she has 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. and continue with the Sustainable Jersey Task Force meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise Capparelli*

Denise Capparelli, Commissioner/Green Team  
Volunteer/Commission Secretary  
Wyckoff Environmental Commission