

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Business Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2020
TIME 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyckoff Town Hall, 340 Franklin Ave., Wyckoff, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Pete Melchionne. The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Commissioner/Secretary Capparelli:

“The January 27, 2020 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

- Commissioners present: Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Celeste Homaychak, Laura Koeber, John Nicol, Ben Weiner, Planning Board Liaison Anthony Riotto, Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Chairman Peter Melchionne,
- Jr Commissioners: Ashley Park
- Member(s) Absent: none
- Green Team Volunteers: Beth Fischer, Christine Key, JR Frank

Motion to approve minutes from the October 21, 2019 with changes

Motion: Weiner Second: Homaychak
Capparelli Y Vice Chairwoman Homaychak Y Koeber Abstain Nicol Abstain
Riotto Abstain Weiner Y Township Commiteeman Boonstra Abstain
Chairman Melchionne Y

I. PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Chairman Melchionne welcomed new members; Lisa Koeber, John Nicol and Anthony Riotto to the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Capparelli reminded all of the ANJEC Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions training on March 7,14 and 28. Please let Ms. Capparelli know if you plan to attend. It is free to all Commissioners.
2. Commissioners voted to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Commission. Commissioner Homaychak made a motion to re-nominate Pete Melchionne as Chairman, seconded by Anthony Riotto. All in favor. Commissioner Lisa Koeber nominated Commissioner Homaychak as Vice Chairwoman, seconded by Commissioner Capparelli. All in favor.
3. Commissioners voted to continue the Jr. Commissioner Program. All in favor. Commissioners agreed there should be a 4 student limit for Jr. Commissioners and that all applicants including current Jr. Commissioners are to complete a new volunteer application form. Vice Chairwoman Homaychak offered to be on the interview committee along with Chairman Melchionne and Township Committeeman Boonstra. It was agreed the completion of the Jr. Commissioner selection process would be complete in February. Mrs. Homaychak offered to update the Jr. Commissioner flyer and distribute and advertise to the high schools. She will submit for approval to the Township Administrator. Chairman Melchionne reiterated the policy on best practices for Environmental Commission members when working with Jr. Commissioners

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4. Re-Usable Bag Program- Green Team volunteer Ms. Fischer reported that grant coordination will be assigned to Commissioner Capparelli. The final report is due April 30, 2020. Ms. Fischer stated that they will show the movie *Bag It* at the Wyckoff Library on April 14th. The movie can be viewed by middle school students and older and their parents. Ms. Fischer has received interest from the Eisenhower Middle School REACT Community service club to assist at the event Ms. Fischer will follow up with the club leader. 100 of the re-usable bags were distributed at the Fall 2019 Shred fest and 200 are in inventory to be used for the Bag It movie, TUTU and Shred Fest. Commissioner Capparelli is creating flyers and a poster for the event.
5. Team Up to Tidy Up will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 9:00am. Need volunteers
6. Shred fest will be held on Saturday, April 25th at 8:30am. Need volunteers

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant for \$10,000. No updates yet
2. NJDEP It Pays to Plug In- The Township is on a list to receive funds. No updates yet
3. Commissioner Capparelli reported SJ has a new 2020 SJ/PSE&G large and small grant opportunity (4)- \$20,000, (8)- \$10,000 and (20) - \$2,000. Deadline is February 14, 2020. Commissioner Capparelli asked if Commissioners had suggestions for any projects that could be funded through grant monies to inform the Township as soon as possible so the Township can submit a thorough and complete application by the Feb. 14, 2020 deadline. No suggestions were received.
4. 2020 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant for Environmental Commissions deadline to apply April 3, 2020. Ms. Fischer stated that she will speak with Township Administrator Bob Shannon about possible grant opportunities.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Identification of goals and programs for 2020 were discussed. Chairman Melchionne recommended implementing strategies for some of the Sustainable Jersey Actions that the Township was re-certified on in 2019. Commissioners discussed Earth Day ideas such as showcasing electric vehicles, and making Earth Day one event for the whole town. Mr. Boonstra suggested an Earth Day subcommittee. Mrs. Homaychak asked what the schools were doing. Ms. Fischer stated she has already reached out to the schools regarding their preliminary plans for Earth Day. Ms. Homaychak has offered to reach out to the schools monthly and report back to the Commission at the meetings as the new School Liaison. Ms. Fischer would like to continue as a Green Team volunteer to reach out to the schools as well. Mr. Boonstra asked if Ms. Fischer can follow up with the schools regarding tree planting for Arbor Day/Earth Day. Mr. Boonstra will follow up with Township Administrator regarding promoting all environmental events on the Township website.
2. Pizza box recycling initiative currently on hold
3. FLOW Green Film Series 2020 – film dates revised, now: March 5, 9, 20 and 26
4. Single Use Plastic Bag – Mr. Boonstra reported that the ban of single use bags was discussed with businesses at the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber voiced their concern and are undecided about a single use plastic bag ban at this time.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bergen Hub Updates – Commissioner Weiner has offered to attend the Bergen Hub meetings and report back to the Commission at the monthly meetings. Green Team volunteer Christine Key attended the January meeting in Glen Rock and informed the Commission that the Bergen Hub is open to all WEC and Green Team volunteers. The topic was composting.- Accelerating Composting Programs for Municipalities. They also discussed the state plastic bag ordinance that the NJ Legislature chose not to approve due to concerns from business associations. She added that 106 municipalities of New Jersey's 565 municipalities in NJ (including Glen Rock, Paramus and Ridgewood in Bergen County) have passed a

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version of the single use plastic bag ordinance. Samantha McGraw, representing Sustainable Jersey, discussed the importance of funding that is received due to the 2020 Census count and the importance and role of Green Team outreach efforts can help to improve participation rates and earn SJ points at the same time. April 1st is National Census Day. Upper Saddle River has implemented a once a month Styrofoam collection day at their DPW facility (delivered to Haskell, NJ for recycling.) Feb 8th Glen Rock will hold a Styrofoam event. Next HUB meeting is in March in Upper Saddle River.

2. Commissioner Weiner inquired about the number of trash cans allowed at the curb per resident household. He inquired if the maximum number of eight bins per household during 1x week collection encourages more waste? Mr. Boonstra responded that the number of cans allowable is based on the size of the household allowing for more bins for larger households that pay higher taxes on their homes.
3. Green Team Updates:
 - Green Film Festival – revised movie dates: March 5, 9, 20, 26. A Save the Date poster is currently being prepared by the library. The schedule is as follows:
 - a. March 5th – Plastic Problem film – Franklin Lakes
 - b. March 9th – A Plastic Ocean film -Wyckoff Library
 - c. March 20- Flint, Voices of a Poisoned City or Food Film- Oakland
 - d. March 26- JR Frank/Architects- Wyckoff
 - Green Team member JR Frank mentioned Styrofoam takes up volume not weight and 1/3 of landfills are currently consumed with Styrofoam.
4. School's Green Team Business:
 - Mrs. Fischer mentioned Coolidge School is actively composting and Sicomac School is conducting their quarterly composting. They will be holding an event some time in February.
5. Recycle Coach App- 1808 users as of Nov.2019. Commissioner Riotto suggested including a small note inside the quarterly mailed tax bill to promote the Recycle Coach App or perhaps through recreation summer registration. Mr. Boonstra, the Township Committee Recreation Liaison will speak with the Recreation Director about the possibility of promoting Recycle Coach through the recreation program.

V. PLANNING BOARD UPDATE – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Riotto reported applications on the Planning Board agenda have been carried over to the next month. No other business to report.

NEXT MEETING – February 24, 2020, Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room- 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT – a motion was passed and seconded to adjourn the business meeting, all in favor. The business meeting concluded at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli
Wyckoff Environmental Commissioner/Secretary