

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Business Meeting Minutes

February 24 2020

DATE: Monday, February 24, 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 Chair Melchionne.

"The February 24, 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: Celeste Homyachak, Laura Koeber, John Nicol, Ben Weiner, Planning Board Liaison Anthony Riotto, Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Chairman Peter Melchionne,
- Member (s) Absent: Denise Capparelli, John Nicol
- Green Team Volunteers: Beth Fischer, JR Frank, John Adams

Motion to approve minutes from the January 27, 2020 with changes

Motion: Weiner Second: Homyachak

Capparelli Absent Vice Chairwoman Homyachak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent
Riotto Y Weiner Y Township Commiteeman Boonstra Y Chairman Melchionne Y

I. PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Jr. Commissioner Program- Commissioner Homyachak advised that with the new program, they chose not to reach out to the schools. A notice advertising for Jr. Commissioners was posted on the Environmental page of the website. Interviews will be conducted with all applicants as soon as the deadline of Friday, February 28th passes.
2. Re-Usable Bag Program- Green Team volunteer Beth Fischer advised she is working with Commissioner Capparelli regarding the upcoming Re-usable Bag movie event scheduled for April 14 at the Wyckoff Library. She asked Township Committee Liaison Boonstra if this is still part of a work stream on the Township Committee and Mr. Boonstra advised to the best of his knowledge it was. Ms. Fischer stated she set up some presentation boards available for WEC events.
3. Super Recycling Saturday- on April 25th. Mr. Boonstra gave an update that the event will include Team Up to Tidy Up, Shred Fest, Prescription Drug take back, presentation of the new police fleet hybrid vehicle, clothes/shoes and now book recycling along with a Styrofoam collection to be held at the DPW yard and Recycling Center that day. Additionally, the Library is hosting a bottle cap sorting program for children to volunteer at the library. There is a bin outside the library for bottle cap donations. Mr. Boonstra also mentioned Arbor Day is on April 22nd and this event will also be celebrated on the 25th to coincide with Super Recycling Saturday. Commissioner Homyachak suggested all Commissioners be available on this date to assist and please sign up.

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II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: no updates

1. Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant
2. NJDEP It Pays to Plug In- The Township is on a list to receive funds.
3. 2020 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant for Environmental Commissions deadline to apply April 30, 2020..

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pizza box recycling initiative currently on hold
2. Single Use Plastic Bag – Mr. Boonstra suggested that misinformation may have previously been provided and that Township would not move forward with this ban until they receive feedback from the local Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Fischer stated she met with the Chamber members at the last meeting about interest in creating a multi-use bag. They are interested and have already received (good) pricing. Ms. Fischer will follow up with the Chamber.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bergen Hub Updates – no updates
2. Air Quality Awareness (AQA) Week- discussion ensued as what can be done to promote awareness during AQA week
3. Green Team Updates:
 - Green Film Festival – JR Frank presented the final flyer and said each film is approximately 30 minutes long. Commissioner Homyachak offered to relay the information to be posted on the Township's website and social media.
 - Energy Community/School Outreach as part of the SJ/Gardinier- Mark Niederman and Beth Fischer will initiate this effort along with Ms. Capparelli
4. School's Green Team Business:
 4. Homyachak provided details on Sicomac School's Green Ambassador and new composting program. Ms. Homyachak reported that Sicomac's Green Ambassadors program meets once a month and comprises an environmental lesson, interactive activity and the sorting and collection of all Terracycle bins. The students are split by grade level with age appropriate activities with the older students writing reflection articles about what was learned on the website, to the younger students creating a compost day and the youngest K-2 students working on an activity. A recent activity included the students "Green Scavenger Hunt" whereby students roamed the school to report on things to improve (i.e. lights left on, etc.). The students held a compost day on Feb. 11 where students created a Power Point presentation. Students were encouraged to contribute fruit to dump in the bins and learned about composting in their outdoor classroom.
 5. Recycle Coach App- Chairman Melchionne reported there were currently 1,882 users as of 2/24/20.
 6. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- Mr. Boonstra provided a solid waste collection survey and advised that the town still has a 3 year contract with the current solid waste collector. This is a policy decision by the Township Committee.

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PLANNING BOARD UPDATE – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Riotto reported that everything was postponed as of our meeting date, until the following meeting. Rudy Boonstra advised how important this calendar year is, and that the 10-Year Master Plan Update would take place. Environmental Commissioners will provide information and updates as needed to the Master Plan (this was also questioned by Green Team member JR – who said he would like to provide information to Commissioners to incorporate into the Master Plan).

NEXT MEETING – March 16, 2020, Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room- 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT – a motion was passed (Riotto) and seconded (Boonstra) to adjourn the business meeting, all in favor. The business meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Celeste Homaychak
Wyckoff Environmental Commissioner