

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2020**

**DATE:** Monday, July 20, 2020  
**TIME** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Zoom Webinar Online

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

“The July 20, 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 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: Denise Capparelli, Celeste Homaychak, Lisa Koeber, Ben Weiner, Chairman Peter Melchionne, Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra
- Jr. Commissioners: Charlotte Cannizzo, Lauren Markariann, Ashley Park
- Absent: Commissioner John Nicol, Planning Board Liaison Anthony Riotto
- Green Team Volunteers: Beth Fischer, JR Frank (left meeting early)

**Motion to approve minutes from the June 15, 2020 meeting**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Weiner

Capparelli Y Vice Chairwoman Homaychak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent  
Riotto Absent Weiner Y Chairman Melchionne Y

**Motion to approve previous minutes from June 15, 2020 meeting.**

Motion Homaychak Second Capparelli

Capparelli Y Vice Chair Homaychak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent  
Riotto Y Weiner Y Chair Melchionne Y

**I. PRIORITY ITEMS:**

1. Chairman Melchionne stated that the Township will conduct a Covid compliant Team Up to Tidy Up (TUTU) Day on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Capparelli added that residents will register with her for the TUTU cleanup location and make an appointment in advance to pick up supplies at Town Hall prior to the event in order to comply with the Township's compliance with NJ State Executive Order 180.
2. Chairman Melchionne informed all that the Fall Shredfest will be held on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Township will be utilizing the free paper shredding services of the NJ Bergen County Utilities Authority, which is not available on Saturdays. Volunteers and workers will not be helping out at the event this year in order to maintain public safety. The Wyckoff police will be available to accept expired/unused medicines at their drug takeback drop box during Shredfest.
3. Composting and bottle cap events will be discussed for a possible later date.
4. Book recycling bins- Chairman Melchionne reported that the book bins were full. Commissioner Capparelli will contact the vendor to determine if they are being emptied as scheduled.
5. The 2021 WEC meeting dates were unanimously approved by all Commissioners.

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**Motion to approve the 2021 WEC Meeting Dates**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Capparelli

Capparelli Y Vice Chairwoman Homaychak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent

Riotto Absent Weiner Y Melchionne Y

**II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Re-Usable Bag Program- Commissioner Capparelli advises she is still working on the program with Green Team volunteer and Committeewoman Fischer. WEC has been given an extension on the completion date from Sustainable Jersey since the library public movie event was cancelled due to Covid-19. There is talk of making the movie *Bag It* an educational online film available to the public as an option or in addition to the library event, pending re-opening of the library. Ms. Capparelli will meet with Ms. Fischer to discuss.
2. Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant – Commissioner Capparelli stated that the Township received final approval of the NJBPU Clean Energy incentives. Air Temp, a NJ Clean Energy, program subcontractor conducted site reviews at Fire Co. 1 in June and will schedule work when the Township is open. The Township is in the process of scheduling electrical energy efficient building upgrades with the NJCEP subcontractor Willdan Electronics. The grant final report is due August 2021.
3. No other grant opportunities were discussed

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Identification of WEC 2020 goals have been discussed. Commissioners will work on projects relating to Sustainable Jersey actions and local projects along with Jr. Commissioners.
2. ANJEC- all training programs are offered online.
3. Pizza box recycling initiative was discussed as a potential project with Jr. Commissioners. Township Committeeman Boonstra suggested possibly coordinating with other local towns as many Wyckoff resident's frequent pizza establishments outside our town. Chairman Melchionne would like to see this as an initial pilot program beginning in Wyckoff town first and if successful extend the efforts beyond the Township border.
4. Single Use Plastic Bag – no updates at this time
5. Ridgewood water quality concern- Mr. Boonstra stated that this is a Ridgewood water quality issue. A link to the webinar online discussion between Ridgewood representative Richard Calvi and Wyckoff BOH President, Dr. Steven Clarke, was posted on the Township website. Commissioner Weiner mentioned a possible survey to residents to see if there are any cluster areas experiencing a higher concentration of water quality issues.
6. Climate Change- growing concern. NJ adopting new K-12 Curriculum standards. No further updates.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Bergen HUB updates – Commissioner Weiner reposted that the SJ Bergen HUB is looking for local artists to help SJ with organizing new action objectives for their certification program. Mr. Weiner stated the arts create robust and vital communities and contribute to overall quality of life. They are considered one of the few activities that bridge all the components of sustainability (economy, environment, social.) Information will be added to the WEC page of the Township website and on social media per the approval of the Township Committee.
2. Green Team Updates – none at this time
3. School's Green Team Business:
  - Ms. Fischer mentioned she has composters available The Township website Environmental page has been updated to reflect Ms. Fischer as the contact person
4. Recycle Coach App – Commissioner Capparelli reported there were approximately 2217 users to date.

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5. Jr Commissioner Updates-

- Ashley Park, currently interning with NJ Food & Water Watch, gave a short presentation about a Renewable Energy Technology feasibility study and is requesting that the Township pass a resolution in support of renewable energy technologies (solar and tidal power) to power the NJ Transit Grid traction power system microgrid as an alternative to non-renewable gas powered sources. She stated that only 6 Bergen municipalities have passed a resolution at this time. Mr. Boonstra requested a copy of the resolution and feasibility study and stated he will discuss with the Township Committee.
- As part of her Environmental Commission year-end project, Ms. Parks requested if she can offer her creative expertise to the schools with the new Climate Change curriculum. Green team volunteer, and K-8 School Liaison, Ms. Fischer stated that the mandate is not until Sept. 2021 although teachers have already begun implementing climate change in their curriculums. Ms. Fischer stated she would first like to discuss this with BOE Curriculum Director. Ashley will work with Commissioner Homyachak.
- Commissioner Homyachak mentioned that previous Jr. Commissioner Chris Keary recently reached out to the Commission after the Dec. 2019 application deadline to apply for Jr. Commissioners. At this time, Mr. Keary was encouraged to join the Green Team as a volunteer.
- Commissioner Homyachak reported that she reached out to the Sicomac school parent environmental liaison to discuss plans for 2020 and is waiting to for her feedback.

6. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- upcoming recycling events have been cancelled until further notice

7. Planning Board Report – Mr. Boonstra replied for Mr. Riotta that the only questionable item on the Planning Board Agenda was the property at the corner of Wyckoff Avenue closest Lawrence Ct.

8. Next Meeting – September 21, 2020, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

**ADJOURNMENT** – a motion was passed (Homyachak) and seconded (Capparelli) to adjourn the business meeting, all in favor. The business meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli  
Commissioner/WEC Secretary  
Wyckoff Environmental Commission