

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes as Amended 1/25/21**  
**December 21, 2020**

**DATE:** Monday, December 21, 2020  
**TIME** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Zoom Webinar Online

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

“The December 21, 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, Planning Board Liaison Anthony Riotto,
- Jr. Commissioners: Charlotte Cannizzo, Lauren Markariann, Ashley Park
- Absent: Commissioner John Nicol
- Green Team Volunteers present: Beth Fischer, JR Frank, Christine Key

**Motion to approve minutes from the October 19, 2020 meeting**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Weiner

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

**I. PRIORITY ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Capparelli followed up on the Township’s required mandated training for their new Child Protection Policy. Environmental Commission volunteers are required to complete a 20-minute online training and will receive a copy of the Township’s policy. Commissioner’s Riotta and Nicol will need to complete the training by the end of the year
2. In addition, mandated Stormwater Training is required. Commissioners can submit completed sign in sheet and return to Commissioner Capparelli.

**II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. *Re-Usable Bag Program*- Commissioner Capparelli gave a summary of the reusable bag virtual movie night. The movie was a success and the guest speaker gave a great talk about single use plastics and the new legislation that was pending at the time. There were approximately 30-35 attendees that joined the online movie. Attendees were screened with a pre-movie poll about plastic use and a survey was distributed online at the end of the movie additionally incorporating information about Recycle Coach. Reusable bags were offered as free giveaways; however, we did not receive any requests.
2. *Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant* – Commissioner Capparelli stated a required Interim report was submitted to Sustainable Jersey in November. Scheduling is underway for HVAC upgrades and a new AC system at the Larkin House. Plans for public outreach are still in process.
3. No other grant opportunities were discussed

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**III. NEW BUSINESS**

1. *Single Use Plastic Bag* – carried to the January meeting
2. Request suggestions to encourage greater resident participation in recycling- carried to January meeting
3. *Ridgewood Water-* carried to the January meeting.
4. *Free Styrofoam Drive* – Commissioner Weiner reported that there will be 2 Free Styrofoam Drives sponsored by the Sustainable Jersey Bergen HUB grant with the County- and open to all Bergen County residents. December 26<sup>th</sup> in Hillsdale and Jan. 2, 2021 in Fair Lawn. The first hour of the drives are for residents only. Non-residents can participate only from 11am-1pm. Commissioner Capparelli mentioned the free drive is posted on the Township's Environmental/Green Team Web page and promoted on Recycle Coach.
5. *Girl Scout Silver Award* request for information on Wyckoff businesses and plastic straws usage. Commissioner Weiner contacted the Girl Scout and sent information about the new Single Use Plastic legislation and offered to assist if necessary.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Bergen HUB updates – Commissioner Weiner reported that the main topic of conversation at the recent meeting was the new plastic ban legislation. Bergen HUB formed a sub-committee to address how the legislation will be implemented among the local Bergen County towns. Commissioner Weiner attended a presentation hosted by the town of Lambertville, who developed a local ordinance, and presented how their town initiated their version of a plastic ban program to residents and businesses. He stated that there is still talk about whether the towns and their Environmental Commissions or the DEP will direct the plastic bag ban rules.
2. Recycle Coach App – Commissioner Capparelli reported Recycle Coach developed a new platform at the end of 2020. Currently the number of subscribers is 2049 of which half of that, 1067 were new subscribers in 2020. Ms. Capparelli also reported that the Township receives online requests about where and how to discard/recycle specific waste items. Since Recycle Coach was introduced to the Township in 2018 there have been 8,154 waste material search requests. The top ten search requests were for the following items: furniture, leaves, milk cartons, household batteries, empty metal paint cans, tree branches, mattresses, cardboard cartons, Styrofoam and latex paints. Suggestions were made by Commissioner Weiner and Green Team volunteer Beth Fischer on creating a PSA message on social media and the Township website on how residents can recycle these top ten most often requested search items
3. Jr Commissioner Updates-
  - Ashley Park gave her project presentation using art to create awareness about climate change. Ashley created a K-8 coloring book for students as an educational tool about the dangers of and solutions for climate change. The book will be available via PDF to the schools and library.
  - Charlotte Cannizzo presented her project on recycling and using pizza boxes as a composting alternative for local farms. Ms. Cannizzo contacted local farmers; Abma's and Abes, however, at this time, they are unable to use the pizza boxes during the fall and winter seasons. As an alternative, Ms. Cannizzo created a sticker that would adhere to pizza boxes to alert residents that pizza boxes are to be disposed of in the trash and not recycled in town. Ms. Cannizzo received support from Wyckoff Pizza and is currently outreaching to other local pizza parlors in town as well. Ms. Cannizzo received a quote of \$45 for a quantity of 2,000 stickers. Commissioners took a vote to use WEC funds to pay for the cost of the labels. \$45.14 per 3 establishments (\$135.42) Commissioners discussed getting a quote for more quantities and suggestions to give pizza establishments the label artwork to include on their boxes without incurring additional costs for their boxes. Commissioner Weiner requested possibly getting volume of pizza sales from the pizza stores as the quantity may not be enough. There was mention of modifying the label if the farm pizza box composting becomes a reality in town.

**Motion to approve using WEC funds of \$135.42 to pay for 6,000 quantity pizza box labels**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Melchionne

Capparelli Y Vice Chairwoman Homaychak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent

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Riotto   Y   Weiner   Y   Chairman Melchionne   Y  

Commissioner Weiner requested if the Environmental Commission had a budget and how much it is? Chair Melchionne stated that the WEC has a budget of \$1,600.00 for the 2020 year.

- Lauren Markariann gave a summary of the Reusable Bag movie webinar and how she assisted Commissioner Capparelli on the promotion of the reusable bag promotion. Ms. Markariann contacted the middle school with webinar information and links as well as a recommended Bag It Movie educator's curriculum plan. Lauren will create a slide of tips for attendees. the public outreach via supermarkets, the free bag giveaway will be available by request to all who attend the Bag It online movie along with educational information on plastics and composting. A survey was also created for movie attendees which will help to increase our WEC distribution list as well as provide feedback.

3. Green Team Updates –

1. JR. Frank noted that he emailed a flyer for the Free Styrofoam Drive. Commissioner Capparelli stated it is already on the Township Environmental website page and Recycle Coach..
2. Reusable Bag- Campaign outreach efforts- Ms. Capparelli previously stated the webinar has been promoted via the Township website, social media, recycle coach, Bergen HUB, ANJEC, Sustainable Jersey and the WEC email distribution list.

3. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Homaychak reported there is no activity at this time due to school schedules/closures.

4. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA )- have released their 2021 dates for the County free Household Hazardous Waste and Special Collections beginning in March. More information to follow.

5. Planning Board Report – Commissioner Riotto reported that

Township Committee Liaison Boonstra reported that the Zoning Board of Adjustment will be reviewing a variance on the completion of electric vehicle charging stations at Cedar Hill Shopping Center.

6. Next Meeting – January 25, 2021, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

**ADJOURNMENT** – a motion was passed (Melchionne) and seconded (Riotto) 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