

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2021

DATE: Monday, January 25, 2021
TIME 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Zoom Webinar Online

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

“The January 25, 2021 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:

- Present: Denise Capparelli, Beth Fischer, Celeste Homaychak, Roger Lane, Ben Weiner, Planning Board Liaison Mae Bogdanský and Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Jr Commissioners (voted in) Sebastian Dash, Lauren Markariann
- Absent: Commissioner Koeber, Jr. Commissioner Charlotte Cannizzo (voted in)
- Green Team Volunteers present: JR Frank, Christine Key

Motion to approve minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting as amended

Motion: Homaychak Second: Weiner

Capparelli Y Fischer Abstain Koeber Absent Lane Abstain Weiner Y Planning Board Liaison Bogdanský Absent Chairwoman Homaychak Y

Motion to elect and approve new Chairperson Celeste Homaychak:

Motion: Fischer Second: Lane

Capparelli Y Fischer Y Koeber Absent Lane Y Weiner Y Planning Board Liaison Bogdanský Absent Chairwoman Homaychak Y

Motion to approve new Jr. Commissioners: Cannizzo, Dash And Markariann

Motion: Fischer Second: Capparelli

Capparelli Y Fischer Y Koeber Absent Lane Abstain Weiner Y Planning Board Liaison Bogdanský Y Chairwoman Homaychak Y

I. PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Chairwomen Homaychak welcomed new Commissioners and Jr. Commissioners. Ms. Homaychak wished all a happy new 2021 year of health.
2. Chair Homaychak requested that Jr. Commissioner goals will be set as part of the Commissions overall goals. Commissioner Capparelli reminder all that she distributed the Jr. Commissioner Code of Conduct for new members as well as a review for current Commissioners. Thank you to new Commissioners for returning.
3. Commissioners briefly discussed goals for 2021 and required Township events such as Team Up to Tidy Up, Shredfest and Fishing Derby. In addition, building upon community outreach and partnerships with local businesses through the Wyckoff Green Business Recognition Program as well as new Stormwater Management requirements for municipalities, Climate Change and its impact , Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and the new NJ Plastic Pollution Reduction Act were discussed.

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4. Commissioner Capparelli thanked Commissioners for completing the required mandated training for the Township's new Child Protection Policy.
5. Chairwoman Homaychak emphasized the importance of the new mandated Stormwater Training and Township's compliance and further guidance on how the Environmental Commission can assist.
6. Covid-19 Compliant Team Up to Tidy is happening again this year on Saturday, April 24th. Volunteers will be needed to set up supplies the week prior. Commissioner Capparelli will order t-shirts and supplies in advance for the event. Wyckoff received a NJ Clean Communities "Rise to the Challenge" award for their Covid-19 compliant Team Up to Tidy Up Day
7. Township Committeeman Boonstra reported that the Spring Shredfest event will be held on Friday, April 23rd at Wyckoff Community Park. There will be 2 trucks again this year and a police drug takeback box. There may possibly be a Styrofoam collection but still awaiting details and confirmation.

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. *Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant* – Commissioner Capparelli stated all building upgrades are just about complete except the new energy efficient AC system at the Larkin House. Plans for public outreach are on hold due to public interaction limitations due to COVID-19. The grant deadline is in August 2021
2. No other grant opportunities were discussed at this time

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Single Use Plastic Bag* – no updates, awaiting NJ State policy on implementing the new legislation
2. *Ridgewood Water*- Commissioner Lane inquired if there has been any news about water quality improvement. Committeeman Boonstra stated that Ridgewood Water is building new wells and implementing new ways to upgrade water quality but it has not improved dramatically
3. Commissioner Weiner suggested ways to encourage less waste by not allowing residents to set out up to 8 cans of garbage weekly on a once a week collection. He feels this would encourage alternate ways to reduce waste and increase more recycling. Commissioner Lane inquired if there are any complaints from the towns garbage hauler about recyclable materials included in the trash collection. Committeeman Boonstra responded that the biggest complaint was pizza boxes being included in the recycling collection. Chairwoman Homaychak stated that hopefully when the Jr. Commissioner project is implemented with the pizza box labels maybe this will encourage greater participation in disposing of this item properly in the trash.
4. Ms. Homaychak reminded Commissioners of training with ANJEC on Jan. 27th and Feb. 27-March 23rd
5. Township Committeeman Mr. Boonstra reported that a conceptual was received by the Planning Board for the commercial installation of an electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) in the Cedar Hills parking lot. It was determined to be a use variance and will have to go before the Board of Adjustments. No application has been received as of yet.
6. Chairwoman requested that now all appointed Jr. Commissioners be added to the Environmental/Green Team page of the Township website

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bergen HUB updates – Commissioner Weiner reported that the Bergen HUB completed two successful Styrofoam drives in Hillsdale and Fair Lawn. Some Wyckoff Green Team members participated. Two trucks were filled up and in Fair Lawn they had to turn away many cars because they were over capacity. Township Committee Boonstra inquired how they measure or track the amount of Styrofoam recycled at these events. Green Team member JR Frank commented Styrofoam is measured in volume not weight and it gets compressed and re-purposed as hard plastic for architectural purposes. The next HUB meeting is January 26th.

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2. Suggestions to encourage greater resident participation in recycling. Commissioner Capparelli reported that at the previous December 25th meeting, Green Team volunteer Beth Fischer suggested the town send out a PSA about the top 10 most requested recyclable items and where do they go- recycle or trash?
3. Jr Commissioner Updates: none at this time

V. GREEN TEAM UPDATES:

1. JR. commented that he would like to see EVCS supported by the Environmental Commission. He mentioned there is a lot of money out there for EVCS and recommended the YMCA as a great location. Most charging stations are near retail establishments to bring business to the businesses. Chairwoman Homyachak asked Mr. Frank to send us any information about EVCS grant opportunities he may come across that the Township could apply for. Committeeman Boonstra stated that the Board of Adjustment (BOA) is an autonomous Board and that the Township cannot influence decisions made by the Board. Mr. Boonstra stated he will clarify legally with the Township Attorney if the Environmental Commission, an extension of municipal government, can attend and comment at BOA meetings as members of the Environmental Commission. WEC members are welcome to attend any public meetings as public members. Mr. Frank asked when applications are before the BOA and if they can be posted before the meeting to WEC/Green Team members. Commissioner Capparelli commented that all the Planning Board and BOA applications and plans are also online.
2. Christine Key reported that the SJ has a subcommittee on plastics on Feb 8th with speaker open to all Commissioners should they want to attend
4. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Homyachak reported there is no activity at this time due to school schedules/closures and asked if Mrs. Fischer would like to reassume her position as Liaison. Mrs. Fischer accepted and would like to set a goal to establish a working relationship with the principals that will help to distribute environmental information to the parents via school eblasts.
5. Composting events- Commissioner Weiner stated they are waiting until Spring for appropriate weather and to abide with Covid-19 requirements. Mrs. Fischer and Commissioner Lane offered to help Commissioner Weiner to hold another event with permission from the Township. Mr. Frank made a recommendation that public outreach to seniors on how to compost may be a nice idea for the future. Mrs. Fischer mentioned that she would like to be the contact person for composter distribution for residents – as per the website. Chairwoman Homyachak suggested utilizing Jr. Commissioners and Scout members to assist at an event.
6. Recycle Coach as reported by Ms. Capparelli. Recycle Coach currently has 2,115 subscribers to date with the majority (80%) being mobile App users. About 60 new subscribers registered in the past month.
7. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) - have released their 2021 dates for the County free Household Hazardous Waste and Special Collections beginning in March. Official dates will be available next month
8. Green Film Festival – Jr. Frank stated he is in the process of coordinating a committee meeting to discuss possible event per COVID-19 guidelines. Mrs. Homyachak suggested that Jr. Commissioners would be a great asset to assist.
9. Mr. Lane mentioned that he previously served as a Commissioner on the Bergen County Utilities Authorities and can be used as a resource for information if need be.
10. Planning Board Report – Commissioner Bogdansky reported that at her first meeting the main focus was a demolition and re-build of home on Vance St. Testimony was heard and the meeting focused on stormwater management and remediation plans & requirements due to dredging hundreds of cubic yards of soil.

NEXT MEETING – February 22, 2021, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Capparelli
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary