

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Business Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

DATE: Monday, February 22, 2021
TIME 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Zoom Webinar Online

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Celeste Homaychak, Chairwoman, Environmental Commission. The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Chairwoman Celeste Homaychak:

“The February 22, 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, Lisa Koeber, Roger Lane, Ben Weiner, Planning Board Liaison Mae Bogdanský and Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Jr Commissioners Charlotte Cannizzo, Sebastian Dash, Lauren Markariann
- Green Team Volunteers present: JR Frank, Christine Key

Motion to approve minutes from the January 25, 2020 meeting as amended

Motion: Lane Second: Bogdanský

Capparelli ___Y___ Fischer ___Y___ Koeber ___Y___ Lane ___Y___ Weiner ___Y___ Planning Board Liaison Bogdanský ___Y___ Chairwoman Homaychak ___Y___

I. PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Jr. Commissioner goals for 2021- Chairwoman Homaychak stated that composting would be a good project that Jr. Commissioners can assist on. Other projects will be assigned according to Commissioner priority projects.
2. 2021 Spring Shred Fest on Friday April 23rd will be held at Wyckoff Community Park. Ms. Homaychak stated the Township will not utilize WEC/Green Team volunteers again this year due to Covid requirements and for the protection and safety of our volunteers. DPW staff will be on hand to assist that day. Township Committeeman Boonstra reiterated that there will be a Prescription Drug Box present for old and used medications and possibly a Styrofoam Collection as well. The Township is awaiting final approval for the Styrofoam shredding.
3. Chairwoman Homaychak invited all Commissioners to assist with the preparation of the Covid Compliant Team Up to Tidy Up Day prior to the event on April 24th. Ms. Homaychak asked all to save the date and reminded the group that we would meet at the Zabriskie Pond for a group “Covid compliant” photo before volunteering to clean up around town.

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. *Sustainable Jersey/Gardiner Environmental Fund Grant* – Commissioner Capparelli stated all building upgrades are just about complete except the new energy efficient AC system at the Larkin House. Ms. Capparelli stated she has been in touch with Sustainable Jersey regarding a virtual public outreach and will need to confirm if the target audience will be residents, seniors or a follow up with the commercial businesses via the Chamber of Commerce. The grant deadline is in August 2021
2. No other grant opportunities were discussed at this time. Please provide complete information to Commissioner Capparelli

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III. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Single Use Plastic Bag* –awaiting NJ State policy on implementing the new legislation. See HUB dates below
2. *Ridgewood Water*- no updates
3. *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*- Mr. Boonstra reported that the application for the EVCS will eventually go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He stated that legislation has put EVCS's in the category under land use law as beneficial use to all communities and permissible in all zones. It is required to go before the Zoning Board to determine setback and parking requirements, etc. No application has been submitted to the Zoning Board as of yet
4. No suggestions to encourage greater participation in recycling at this time. Ms. Homyachak suggested perhaps a Jr. Commissioner can consider this as a research project.
5. ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) – the Fundamental for Environmental Commissions class will be running Feb 27- March 23rd. See Commissioner Capparelli to register. WEC members attend with no fee. Environmental Commission Members Power and Responsibilities class will be held on Saturday, Feb 27, 9:30am and March 2nd - 7pm.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Jr. Commissioner Updates:
 - Lauren Markariann offered to continue with plastic bag reduction projects.
 - Commissioner Fischer asked if any Jr. Commissioner was interested in assisting with the Composting event which is scheduled tentatively for Saturday, April 17th at Russell Farms Community Park at 10am. She will reach out to the schools and environmental clubs. This event would require Jr. attendance. Ms. Fischer expressed composters are available through the BCUA for \$60. Commissioner Lane offered to inquire about compost donations from BCUA. Additionally, Ms. Fischer said she may be able to acquire rain barrels to kick off another program. Mr. Boonstra recommended a contest to win a rain barrel or composter. Green Team Volunteer JR Frank suggested that rain barrels would be a good tie in with a rain garden event utilizing the Library's rain garden.
 - Commissioner Weiner suggested as a project that Jr Commissioner can create PSA's utilizing their social media and technology skills on a topic relevant to WEC priority project goals
2. Bergen HUB updates – Commissioner Weiner reported that the Bergen HUB is holding their meeting this evening but reported that a big focus this year will be the plastic pollution reduction ban legislation and the rollout to towns and businesses. He attended a (FLOW) local environmental HUB subcommittee meeting to brainstorm ideas on what to do locally. The subcommittee suggested reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce from each town and strategies on how to work together to help them transition to this new mandate. Mr. Weiner offered to reach out to the Commerce to initiate the process. A HUB webinar on The Science of Styrofoam is available and dates will be provided further. Mr. Weiner also mentioned that Ramsey is planning to adopt a Storm Drain program.
3. Stormwater Management Update- Mr. Boonstra advised the Commission that the Township is in the process of adopting updated ordinances. It is a very lengthy process and the Township is being consulted by Boswell Engineers. Green Team volunteer JR Frank requested the Environmental Commission to be apprised of the new stormwater ordinances for review prior to adoption. Mr. Boonstra replied that he will bring this before the Board at their next meeting.

V. GREEN TEAM UPDATES:

4. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Fischer reached out to PTO Presidents and is awaiting response from all schools. She has an upcoming meeting with K-8 Superintendent Potsma to discuss WEC events and Earth Day. Ms. Fischer asked Jr. Commissioners to assist with communicating the WEC events with their

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prospective high schools. Ms. Bogdansky recommended using elementary schools Student Council as a communication resource and she offered, as Webmaster for Washington Elementary, to assist on a technical level with outreach information.

5. Composting events-. Chairwoman Homaychak suggested utilizing Jr. Commissioners and Scout members to assist at an event. Ms. Fischer previously mentioned the tentative Composter event date is April 17th at 10am.
6. Ms. Capparelli informed that Recycle Coach updates were not available at the time of the meeting but will be forwarded to Commissioners at a later time. She stated that Recycle Coach was used in addition to the Township's E-News, website and social media posts to inform residents of all trash/recycling changes during the recent snow storms. Recycle Coach, a free service paid by the NJDEP, to all NJ municipalities can be utilized to send out PSA, News, Emergency announcements at no fee. Chairwoman Homaychak suggested what the cost would be to do an extended PSA announcement as this would be an additional optional cost feature.
7. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- Household Hazardous Saturday, March 6, 9am-3pm in Moonachie. Other tire/electronic/paper shredding will be held on Sunday April 6, 9am-3pm in Paramus at Bergen Community College.
8. Green Film Festival – Jr. Frank reported that previously the self-funded film festival event has considered having a drive-in movie event due to the limitations with Covid. Mr. Frank requested if WEC could provide any funding for the program or if not can the committee solicit private funding. Chairwoman Homaychak suggested the Green Film Festival committee put together a formal proposal request for funding and it will be addressed by the Township Committee. She suggested perhaps renting a large movie theatre for this event.
9. SJ/Gardinier Public Outreach- Ms. Capparelli will be meeting with the Energy Program Manager, Nancy Quirk, at Sustainable Jersey who will provide information on having a virtual Energy Outreach event. Ms. Capparelli will be working with Sustainable Jersey to get the details. Commissioners and Jr. Commissioners are needed to assist.
10. Planning Board Report – Commissioner Bogdansky reported that the last meeting was very lengthy with a lot of time spent on the Stormwater Management Plan. Testimonies were heard and the Township and Engineer met the required recommendations and the properties were completed. The Planning Board approved a 90-day extension on the approval for subdivision with the Township and the Brackett property. Mr. Boonstra added the land swap on Crescent Ave. with the Brackett family enhanced the Township's ability for stormwater management and the Township can better control the Hohokus Brook along the back of the Township/Brackett property. This will help allow greater access in order to provide better stormwater management.

NEXT MEETING – March 15, 2021, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

ADJOURNMENT – a motion was passed (Bogdansky) and seconded (Weiner) to adjourn the business meeting. All in favor. The meeting concluded at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Capparelli
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary