

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

DATE: Monday, March 15, 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/Commissioner, Environmental Commission. The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Commissioner Ms. Capparelli

“The March 15, 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: none

Motion to approve minutes from the February 22, 2020 meeting as amended

Motion: Lane Second: Fischer

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. Chair Homaychak confirmed that the 2021 Spring Shred Fest on Friday April 23rd to be held at Wyckoff Community Park 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.
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. Students will get parental consent form for photos. Commissioner Capparelli requested Commissioners help to get donations of reusable bags from local retail stores. She will reach out to the Chamber for bag donations again this year.

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. *Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant* – Commissioner Capparelli states she is in touch with Sustainable Jersey regarding a virtual public outreach and would like to conduct a commercial outreach follow up with the Chamber of Commerce. Se is awaiting commitment from Green team volunteer Mark Niederman to assist. The grant deadline is in August 2021
2. ANJEC has posted the new 2021 for Open Space Stewardship grant in the amount of \$1500. Commissioner Fischer verbally proposed a tentative project would be new signage at Russell Farms Community Park. Ms. Fischer will follow up with Ms. Capparelli regarding details and a proposal.
3. Please provide any grant opportunities to Commissioner Capparelli

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Single Use Plastic Bag* – still awaiting NJ State policy on implementing the new legislation and HUB updates. Commissioner Weiner reported that he and Commissioner Fischer spoke with Howie Felixbrod at the Chamber of Commerce to set up a meeting to discuss the impending plastic bag rules and regulations. Ms. Fischer and Mr. Weiner offered to answer any questions and be available as a point of resource and guidance as the businesses navigate the new requirements for the plastic bag ban. Commissioner Weiner will outreach to some local businesses for specific questions and concerns that can be addressed as a whole to the Chamber for distribution to all businesses.
1. *Ridgewood Water*- Ridgewood Water is holding two Community Planning virtual session on April 6 at 6:30pm and April 20th at 12noon. Commissioner Capparelli will provide the registration link to Commissioners
2. *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*- Mr. Boonstra reported no application has been submitted to the Zoning Board as of yet. The Township Attorney is currently working on an ordinance specifically relevant to lighting and signage.
3. There were no suggestions to encourage greater participation in recycling at this time. Ms. Homyachak stated she and Commissioner Ms. Fischer are meeting this evening after the March 15th meeting to discuss environmental projects with Commissioners.
4. ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) – Chairwoman Homyachak reminded Commissioners of training opportunities and stressed the importance of their education as a valuable resource available at no cost to Commission members. Ms. Homyachak asked if any members will take the training, Reply - no one at this time.
5. Commissioner Weiner will reach out to the previous local Girl Scout inquiry about her plastic straw project

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

2. Jr. Commissioner Updates: Chair Homyachak reported that specific projects will be discussed at the informal meeting with the Jr. Commissioners following the Environmental Commission meeting this evening. JRs. will be assigned to two Commissioners for projects. Ms. Fischer stated that currently Charlotte will complete the pizza box project and begin a new project and Sebastian will assist Ms. Fischer with the compost flyer.
3. Bergen HUB updates – Mr. Weiner reported that the Bergen HUB received a grant last year for Styrofoam drives. The final drive will be held in Ridgewood on April 17th. The first hour is solely for Ridgewood residents and then from 11am-1pm for all other Bergen County residents. Ms. Capparelli circulated the flyer for posting. A HUB subcommittee is currently working on a recycling of plastic packaging and bags project. The supermarkets are currently collecting bags but they are investigating other alternatives for collection and recycling. The committee is working with the County to get 3-4 trailers to consolidate plastic for recycling. The Bergen SJ HUB is soliciting interest from 3-4 towns that would like to host the program. The program will ultimately be available and open to all Bergen towns. Mr. Weiner reported that Ramsey presented a storm drain water management program with their local scouts. Mr. Weiner suggested maybe something similar can be done in Wyckoff?
4. Stormwater Management- Mr. Boonstra stated the plan is still being worked on. Chair Homyachak requested if Commissioners can get a copy when complete.

V. GREEN TEAM UPDATES:

5. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Fischer met with Dr. Potsma regarding approval for environmental events to promote to K-8 schools. Ms. Fischer stated that each individual elementary school and the Eisenhower Middle school React Club will be in charge of registering their students for Team Up to Tidy Up Day and will each report to Commissioner Capparelli for a total count. All elementary schools with the exception of Washington School have an environmental club. Washington has a wellness committee that will conduct some earth day activities. Coolidge School has an outdoor learning center they will use for earth day

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

activities. Ms. Fischer will combine all elementary school earth day activities to share among all the schools. Ms. Homyachak suggested taking photos of events for Sustainable Jersey re-certification.

6. Composting events-. Ms. Fischer met with Committeeman Boonstra on ways to boost compost interest. Mr. Boonstra suggested giving away a free composter. Mr. Boonstra offered to donate the composter. The recommendation is to do a giveaway vs a raffle which would require a NJ State license. 3 Commissioners and 3 Jr. Commissioners will be assisting at the event.
7. Ms. Capparelli reported at the end of February there were 213 new subscribers to Recycle Coach. This was one of the largest monthly increases since Recycle Coach was first introduced. Chair Homyachak asked if the information can be sent to the Newcomers Club. Commissioner Weiner inquired if there is a way Recycle Coach can break down geographically by zone how many people are subscribers.
8. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- Household Hazardous Saturday Sunday April 11, 9am-3pm in Paramus at Bergen Community College. Commissioner Homyachak inquired if the Township takes the same waste materials as the BCUA. Township Committeeman Boonstra replied, yes, plus additional items such as clothes, shoes, books, metals which are shipped to the recycling company
9. Green Film Festival – Ms. Fischer reported for Green team volunteer JR Frank. The FLOW will hold 2 events partnering with FLOW towns and a local architect firm who have chosen a film but the movie date is still to be determined. Ms. Fischer will confirm date and report back to Ms. Capparelli. The FLOW event will be a virtual movie on May 20th. “The Environmental Effects of Fashion” will be broadcast in addition to a family friendly drive in movie event featuring the movie, Walle, hosted at Franklin Lakes Parsons Pond..
10. SJ/Gardinier Public Outreach- Ms. Capparelli reported she spoke with Tracy Woods, the SJ Energy & Research Project Specialist about public outreach efforts. At this time the NJ Direct Energy Program is transitioning administration from the state to be managed through the public utility companies. The Township will postpone outreach until nicer weather ensues. The goal is to hold a virtual or in person commercial outreach effort preferably with the local Chamber of Commerce again. If the outreach is not performed by the grant due date of Aug. 31, the Township will request an extension from Sustainable Jersey.
11. Planning Board Report – Commissioner Bogdansk reported that the Planning Board approved a minor sub-division of two lots acquired by the Township as open space property via a grant from the Bergen County Open Space Grant fund.. 21 of the 26 acres of the Maple Lake property were purchased by the Township and will be set aside as open space for protection of property and existing wetlands. This was a settlement agreement from 2018. Township Committeeman Boonstra added that the importance of this purchase is that it takes 21 acres of wetlands buffer along the railroad track from Demarest Ave until Newtown Rd near the Midland Park border and shields it for perpetuity where it will not be developed in the future. It will be preserved for passive wetlands and a possible single walking path.

NEXT MEETING – April 19, 2021, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

ADJOURNMENT – a motion was passed (Capparelli) and seconded (Homyachak) to adjourn the business meeting. All in favor. The meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Capparelli
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary