

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2019

DATE: Monday, June 17, 2019
TIME 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Wyckoff Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Beth Fischer, Celeste Homyachak, Christine Key, Chairman Peter Melchionne

STUDENT JR COMMISSIONERS: Jasmine Ho, IHHS; Ashley Park, BCTECH; Nick Rea, Bergen Academy

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Melissa Rubenstein, Township Committeewoman, Jr Commissioner Dan O'Connell, Jr Commissioner Christopher Keary, John Cannizzo, RHS; Camille Dash, RHS

GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS PRESENT: JR Frank, Alex Sullivan, Wendy Rosica

PUBLIC PRESENT: Girl Scout Troop 94686 members Natalie and Katherine

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

“The June 17, 2019 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 that 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.

Motion to approve minutes from the April 15, 2019 meeting postponed. To be approved at the September meeting

Motion: _____ Second: _____
Capparelli _____ Fischer _____ Homyachak _____ Key _____ Melchionne _____ Rubenstein _____

PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Girl Scout Troop 94686 presented an update to their Bronze Award project about Monarch Butterflies and native plants in home gardens.
2. Re-Usable Bag Contest winners were announced and presented awards donated by the Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce. Commerce President, Howie Felixbrod presented a Wyckoff Business gift certificate award to the winning students totaling \$200 (\$100, \$50, \$50).
 - Winner : Riley Cannon, Coolidge Grade 5/ Plastic free is the way for me!
 - 2nd runner up: Dylan Epstein, Washington Gr. 5 - *Reuse or we all lose!*
 - 1st runner up: Aslan Aydin, Washington Gr. 5 - *Save some plastic be fantastic!*Student winners received a WEC Certificate of Achievement and the WEC thanked the Chamber and the Wyckoff BOE for their continued support and partnership with our Green initiatives. Jr.

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Commissioner, Jasmine Ho, shared some plastic use best practices with the audience and mentioned the \$2,000 grant received to help purchase the re-usable bags and that more information will be coming about the Wyckoff Plastic Free Bag Day and free re-usable bag distribution.

3. Junior Commissioner Projects and School Updates–
 - a. Ashley Park reported on her Plastics/Ocean Pollution accordion picture book for elementary school students to educate them on the life of a plastic bottle. She presented a slide show and used art to communicate to students at Sicomac School on May 29th. Students response was positive and they recommended putting up signs at the schools
 - b. Nick Rea has created a draft of his project, Vacation Travelers Go Green Best Practices, Green Vacation Tips. The draft will be available in electronic form to add to the WEC website.
 - c. Jasmine Ho met with Managers at Shop Rite to discuss Free re-usable Bag Day. An event is planned for September. Thank you to Jasmine and Commissioner Fischer for coordinating the program.
4. Sustainable Jersey 2019 Re-Certification – Commissioner Key confirmed that the Township submitted its application for Silver Re-Certification and will await the first round review comments in Mid-July. The Township submitted 39 actions for a total of 475 points, we need 350 points for Silver. WEC will have an opportunity to revise and resubmit by the 1st Revised Application Deadline of September 8, 2019. She would like to thank everyone for all their time and in working together as a team in meeting deadlines and making this happen. Commissioner Fischer inquired if some actions should be part of an ongoing strategic plan. It was recommended that Commissioners come up with some ideas of actions that should be ongoing at the September meeting.
5. WEC Chairman Melchionne presented former Jr. Commissioner and now Green Team volunteer Alex Sullivan a Certificate of Achievement for going above and beyond with his contributions to the Environmental Commission. Mr. Sullivan was responsible for coordinating and promoting the Town's Anti-Idling Campaign, helped to produce the Township's Recycling videos featuring the Mayor, created drone presentations of WEC events: TUTU and the Fishing Derby and most recently he received the prestigious *What Municipal Gov't Do Best* Award from the NJ League of Municipalities. We wish Alex congratulations and the best of luck on his first year at college.
6. Notification of withdrawal from Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Rob Fortunato –Chairman Melchionne reported that Mr. Hanley, from the Planning Board is interested in applying for the seat as the Planning Board Liaison.
7. Commissioner Open Seats – There are 2 open seats on the Environmental Commission. One will be filled by a liaison from the Planning Board. The other is open and applications are being accepted. We are aware of one application sent to Town Hall via website, we would like to know status of the application.
8. Review of Township Purchase Orders – Commissioner Capparelli confirmed that the procedures for ordering supplies/items for the Environmental Commission was reviewed by all members.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. SJ 2019 Small Grant Program (presently submitted for Re-Usable Bag program)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fishing Derby- Chairman Melchionne and Green Team volunteer JR Frank reported that the Fishing Derby was a success. Thank you to Alex Sullivan for his aerial footage of the event. Mr. Frank mentioned he and fellow Green Team members John Adams and Alex Sullivan attended the event. He added he would like to see more Commissioners and Green Team Volunteers attend this event in the future.

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2. Wyckoff Day- Commissioner Capparelli reported that WEC had many visitors at their table on Wyckoff Day. She would like to thank Jr. Commissioners: Jasmine Ho, Dan O’Connell, Camille Dash and Green Team volunteer Alex Sullivan who spoke to many residents about their projects relating to anti-idling, single use plastic bags, composting and sustainable best practices. Girl Scout Troop 94686 members of the Monarch butterfly project were also on hand to share information about native plant gardening and their relationship to pollinators.
3. The Commission voted unanimously to cancel July and August summer meetings as many members and residents are away on vacation. The Commission will resume on September 16th.
4. The Commission approved the new WEC meeting dates for 2020.
5. WEC/Green Team List of Accomplishments – Commissioner Fischer has completed the list of accomplishments for 2018 for WEC. This information is a requirement of the Township as part of their annual review.
6. Commissioner Key and Commissioner Capparelli attended the Sustainable Jersey Summit – SJ Turns 10 June 14th in Holmdel NJ. Ms. Key shared some information about the 2019 Sustainable Jersey Summit. She also shared information about a June 6 speaker forum at Fairleigh Dickinson University, The Green NEW Deal: Exploring the Possible. Fliers for both events were distributed.
7. Commissioner Capparelli reported that at Wyckoff Day she spoke with members of Partners in Pride. They are looking for volunteers to help with plant watering throughout town. Volunteers can contact PIP to sign up.
8. Single-use plastic bag, local town bans & updates- Commissioner Key updated everyone that ANJEC is celebrating 50+ Plastic Bans across the state, with Glen Rock passing single-use ban in early April, Ridgewood on June 12th both begin January 2020 Additionally, Paramus is currently working on a plastic ban.
9. Commissioner Homaychak inquired if the WEC can have an alternate member. Chairman Melchionne mentioned that all members are appointed. WEC members inquired about the WEC bylaws. Bylaws are on the Township website for review.
10. It was requested that the Single -use plastic bag sub-committee provide a monthly status report to the Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

Bergen Hub Updates: as reported by Commissioner Key. The next Meeting is Monday, July 15, 2019 in Fair Lawn from 7:00pm - 8:30pm at the Fair Lawn Community Center, the Card Room (10-10 20th St, Fair Lawn). Featured Speaker: Community Solar - Sustainable Princeton.

1. Green Team Updates:
 - a. Anti-Idling. – Idling audits were completed at all schools. Stop the Soot educational materials were distributed to all K-8 students. Air Quality Awareness posters were ordered and donated by Commissioners Fischer and Key.
2. Wyckoff School's Green WEC/WGT Liaison as reported by Commissioner Fischer
3. Dual Days Recycling Weekly Challenge- not available
4. Recycle Coach App- Commissioner Capparelli reported there were 37 new subscribers for May for a total of 1368 YTD. Ms. Capparelli mentioned that she will utilize Recycle Coach to send out news announcements of events and PSA of sustainable best practices: i.e.: Best Stormwater Practices as they relate to the time of year.
5. Monarch Butterfly Sign- Commissioner Capparelli is waiting for an install date from DPW. Chairman Melchionne will follow up.
6. Mayor's Wellness- Commissioner Homaychak reported no updates.

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7. Recycling Road Shows – no updates
8. Township Zero Waste Program- 50lb bags of paper are continuing to be recycled at Town Hall
9. Other Business:
 - a. JR Frank inquired about his stormwater best practices checklist for SJ ordinance. Chairman Melchionne reported it was not approved by the Township Committee, it must be streamlined. JR will send the latest copy for Chairman Melchionne to send to the Township Engineer for Township approval.
 - b. Commissioners agreed to review minutes from April 15, 2019 meeting

PLANNING BOARD UPDATE – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Robert Fortunato officially resigned in June. No new liaison was selected at last Planning Board meeting.

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING – September 16, 2019 at 7:00pm to be held in the Ladder Back Room, Second Fl. Town Hall. There will be no meetings for the summer months of July and August.

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli, Commissioner/Secretary
Volunteer Wyckoff Environmental
Commissioner