

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**November 15, 2021**

**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Upstairs Ladder Back Conference Room

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

“The November 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, and Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra; Jr Commissioners Lauren Markariann and Charlotte Cannizzo
- ✦ Absent: Mae Bogdanský, Sebastian Dash
- ✦ Green Team Volunteers attending: Stanley Goodman

**Motion to approve minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting.**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Lane;

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

**I. Priority Review Items**

- a. Chairwoman Homaychak informed the Commission that she will be stepping down as Chair for the Environmental Commission at the end of the year. Mrs. Homaychak expressed that she enjoyed being a part of a great team that collectively worked to create and carryout some excellent sustainable programs. Mr. Weiner thanked Mrs. Homaychak for all her work and for leading the WEC this year. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Weiner wished Mrs. Homaychak the best in her new volunteer opportunity and expressed how the Commision has appreciated her openness to new ideas that helped to move things forward.
- b. December 20<sup>th</sup> WEC meeting will be held at the Library. Jr. Commissioner's will present. Please let Ms. Capparelli know of any special needs or requirements for presentations before the meeting.
- c. *Sustainable Jersey* - As this is an Environmental commission responsibility, all Commissioners are required to update actions for recertification. The current Certification period is Nov. 1, 2019-Dec. 31, 2022. We will need to apply beginning in early June 2022.

**II. Planning Board** – Mr. Boonstra reported that the Planning Board approved the Stormwater Management resolution and ordinances which will be added as an element to the Township's Master Plan.

**III. Grant Programs for 2021:** The Township will apply for all grant opportunities in 2021

- a. Other new grant opportunities? Please provide thorough and complete information to Ms. Capparelli

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**IV. New Business**

- a. *Single Use plastic/paper bag ordinance* – Commissioners Capparelli and Weiner attended the ANJEC webinar on the new Plastics Law. Many resources as well as information on rollout, promotion and enforcement were presented by representatives from ANJEC, the Ocean Conservancy and NJ Clean Communities. Ms. Capparelli will send link from the webinar. Enforcement will be the initial responsibility of the towns and then roll up the state (DEP). Commissioners asked Township Committeeman Boonstra how the Township Committee will advise the Commission on what position the town will take regarding promoting and enforcing the plastic bag ban and its effect on local business - will it be a centralized or decentralized responsibility of local businesses? Green Team volunteer Mr. Goodman inquired if we had any local suppliers of food packaging in our town?
- b. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) update – no further information at this time.
- c. Growing the Green Team- Commissioners have requested a small advert to be included in the Township E-News or Facebook page to promote more volunteers for the Green Team. Ms. Capparelli will email Township Clerk.
- d. Ridgewood Water- is holding monthly open public meetings. See their website for more information.
- e. RecycleBalls tennis recycling program update – Commissioner Homyachak reported that the program is going well. Mrs. Homyachak stated that Recycle Balls has merged with another company, Tennis Express. She reported that a minimum of 100 tennis balls are accepted per box to be sent back to the company for recycling. The postage cost for 10 boxes to ship will be \$200 (\$20/per box) At this time, Township Committeeman Rudy Boonstra approved the payment of \$20 for a UPS label for one box to be sent back. 83 tennis balls were collected to date and it is not anticipated that there will be many more collected due to this being a seasonal sport that is coming to an end.
- f. The Township passed the referendum on the 2021 November general election ballot for the continued Open Space Trust fund. Ms. Capparelli reported that there were 4,139 YES votes and 855 NO votes that passed the Referendum.
- g. Mr. Boonstra reported that the Township installed new bleachers at the new Memorial Field. Incorporating sustainable best practices, the Township purchased recycled concrete for the bleachers which was not only sustainable but also cost effective for the Township.
- h. Commissioner Lane suggested that the Commission consider requesting an annual budget of \$3,000. He offered to contact Township Committee Liaison Mr. Boonstra to discuss. He stated that Commissioner's should not have to use their personal money to pay for supplies for WEC related events.
- i. Chair Homyachak informed Commissioners if they are interested in joining the Jersey Waterworks organization there is a virtual summit from December 8-10.
- j. Ms. Capparelli informed Commissioners that the Township is now collecting the used water cups (recycle #5) from the water dispenser located in the common hallway for recycling.

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**V. Other Business**

1. Jr. Commissioner Projects and Updates
  - a. Lauren reported that the Trex plastic recycling program administered through the WEC ended on November 15. 1,216 lbs. (goal 800 lbs.) of plastic were collected and will be sent to Trex. The project team is determining where to locate the bench that will be received from the recycled plastic. One suggestion was the rain garden at the library. Help for installation will be requested from the DPW. Ms. Markariann has confirmed with local retailers such as Wyckoff Stop and Shop and Shop Rite as well as the North Haledon Fresh Grocer that they will continue to participate in the Trex plastic bags collection. Notification to residents was promoted via Township E-News, website and social media
  - b. Sebastian – no further updates at this time
  - c. Charlotte reported that her PSA's for the local K-8 schools are circulating weekly. Her timely PSA for reusable straws (plastic straw ban became effective Nov. 4, 2021) and plastic bags were recently distributed to the schools.
2. Sustainable Jersey Bergen HUB updates – Mr. Weiner reported the HUB plans to share information on the new plastic bag ban law as it becomes available. The HUB's goal is to create a county wide effort to address this new law and hence invited County Commissioner Tracey Zur to the meeting to gain her support. Mr. Weiner stated that a company installed 2 EVCS at no cost to the county. He will investigate if there is a similar program at the local public level. Mr. Weiner reported that the Village of Ridgewood has initiated a sustainable landscaping pilot program for its local municipal parks. Mr. Weiner will obtain further information on this program.
3. Commissioners Weiner and Fischer attended a Partners in Pride meeting. At this time the PIP did not express interest in partnering with WEC on some ideas.
4. Recycle Coach App update for October -- 31 new subscribers. 2,864 to date since inception July 2018
5. BCUA - Household Hazardous Waste collections have ended for 2021.
6. Waldwick will be hosting a Styrofoam Drive at their Public Works Dept. on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm for all towns other than Waldwick

**VI. Green Team Volunteer Approved Activities/Comments**

- a. Wyckoff School's WEC Liaison update – Mrs. Fischer shared with Commissioners the excellent manual she created for the Wyckoff K-8 school Green Team Liaisons. Mrs. Fischer created this extra curricula guidebook that will serve to share many of the sustainable and environmental programs and projects that have been successful in the schools throughout the years.
- b. SJ/Gardinier Environmental Fund energy efficiency program. Mrs. Fischer spoke with Mark Niederman who will follow up with the Chamber of Commerce for a second Commercial Energy outreach presentation in early 2022.
- c. Commissioner Fischer will email a notice to the high schools to inform Wyckoff students who may be interested in volunteering in the 2022 Jr. Commissioner program.

**VII. Next meeting** – December 20, 2021 final meeting for 2021 at the Wyckoff Library - Student Presentations

**VIII. Adjournment** – There being no further business. A motion to adjourn by Mr. Lane and seconded by Mrs. Koeber was passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli  
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary