

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August Public Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, August 20, 2018
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 2nd Floor Conference Room
Memorial Town Hall, Wyckoff, NJ

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christine Key; Denise Capparelli; Celeste Homaychak; Peter Melchionne; Matt Cascio; Allison Sassano, Junior Member Ramapo Alex Sullivan, Junior Member Ramapo; Jasmine Ho, Junior Member Indian Hills; Susan McQuaid, Secretary. Tom Madigan, Committeeman arrived at 8:23 p.m.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Randy Hoogerheyde; Robert Fortunato, Planning Board Liaison; Nick Rea, Junior Member Bergen Academies; Dan O'Connell, Junior Member Ramapo; Jasmine Ho, Junior Member Indian Hills

GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS: John Adams; Beth Fischer; JR Frank

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Commissioner Melchionne.

The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Peter Melchionne:

"The August 20, 2018 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 June 18, 2018 meeting

Motion: _____ Melchionne _____ Second: _____ Capparelli _____
Fortunato AB Melchionne Y Homaychak Y Capparelli Y
Cascio Y Key Y Hoogerheyde AB Madigan AB

Public Comment

Wyckoff resident Dennis Pikaard, said that he receives the Township of Wyckoff email blast. He said the website is not designed to print just one page of the email and all 14 pages are printed. He suggested the Wyckoff webpage be reformatted to obtain this action. The Commissioners said they will look into this. Commissioner Melchionne said a "printer friendly version" of the PDF can be added to the email blast. Green Team Member John Adams said he has been receiving flyers from Ridgewood Water in the mail and noted that the water quality and water sustainability should be addressed. Commissioner Madigan was not present and Commissioner Melchionne said he would answer that question when he joined the meeting.

Priority Items

1. New & Improved Recycling dual stream curbside collection- updates & feedback

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Commissioner Capparelli said significant public information efforts are being made to convert to dual stream. Large posters, a notice on the police department electronic sign board, a color brochure has been mailed to the residents, the Wyckoff website has been updated, information has been placed in the Fall newsletter, a recycling mascot Myrtle the Turtle has been designed to assist with dual recycling. Recycle barrels have been ordered and will be sold for \$20 each and are expected to be available mid to late September. Also, Nancy Cole is keeping tallies on the recycle challenge between Monday District vs. Tuesday District. Ms. Capparelli said a Recycle Coach online app has just been launched. She added that the Mayor has created a video: Dual is Cool. A special thank you to Alex Sullivan for his technology in filming Dual is Cool. A second video is soon to be released.

2. Environmental Resource Inventory Project – Update

Commissioner Capparelli said maps have been provided and the ERI project will be completed for the 2019 submittal to Sustainable Jersey.

3. Sustainable Jersey – Certification renewal progress- Update

Commissioner Key said the task force is reviewing new suggested actions and each team should move forward with their actions.

4. NJ Plastic Bag Ban – Huttie

Assemblywoman District 36 Valerie Huttie introduced Bill 3267 which would establish a fee on single-use carryout bags used in certain stores and dedicates fee revenue to “Healthy Schools and Community Lead Abatement Fund.” Commissioner Key said Glen Rock has been doing a lot of great things with getting the residents to support a reduction of the use of plastic bags. She suggested that Wyckoff adopt a resolution to support the ban on the use of plastic bags. Several points from the resolution were read aloud. It was suggested that the resolution be sent by email for all to read.

5. 2019 WEC Calendar Dates

Commissioner Key asked that the final calendar be distributed once finalized. Secretary McQuaid will obtain this revised 2019 schedule from Fran Piskadlo. Team up to Tidy Up is April 27, 2019 with a rain date of May 4, 2019.

Task Force Items

#1 - COMMUNITY - Partnership and Outreach, Diversity & Equity, Health and Wellness, Food, Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation. Commissioner Homaychak, Commissioner Key, Commissioner Cascio, John Adams, Beth Fischer

1. Environmental Commission (Green Team) Activities/Programs/ANJEC Grants for 2018 Upcoming and Past Events

Commissioner Key said currently there are 2 - \$30,000 grants and 9 - \$10,000 grants available. The grant funding opportunities will be presented at the next meeting.

2. Green Team volunteers – initiative for new members - Commissioner Key

Commissioner Key said the Gardinier Environmental Fund is contributing \$150,000 (2-\$30,000 grants and 9-\$10,000) to support Sustainable Jersey Grants for municipalities and school districts that support projects focused on energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The application deadline is Wednesday, October 31, 2018 at 11:59 p.m.

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3. Bergen H.U.B. - Update – Commissioner Key, John Adams

Commissioner Key said that Glen Rock had 20 interns supervised by the Green Team and Borough Administrator who organized and hosted several events and initiatives including a movie screening of Plastic Ocean highlighting the dangers of plastic bags and a free give away of a reusable bag. Borough Hall went bottle FREE and businesses switched from plastic straws to paper straw and participate with Leonia to host a Styrofoam Drive pilot program in Bergen County.

4. Wyckoff School's Green WEC/WGT Liaison Report - Commissioner Key, Beth Fischer

Beth Fischer, Wyckoff School's Green Liaison to the WEC/WGT reported that she has contacted the Board of Education about the recycling vendor. It was confirmed that recycling in the schools is the same as the municipality so the recycling awareness and education awareness presentations will move forward. She would like to review the recycle practice and see how much recycle is being thrown into the regular garbage. She said the Middle School's garden is growing and some of the plants will be transplanted out into the community. There are also bees and monarch butterflies in the garden at Russell Community Park.

5. Mayor's Wellness Committee (a component of Sustainable Jersey) – Commissioner Homyachak

Commissioner Homyachak reported that she has seen Myrtle the Turtle campaign as well as who's winning with the recycling challenge. Commissioner Homyachak said the Mayor has created a video Dual is Cool and has also posted a vapping brochure on the Mayors Wellness website.

6. Summer Internship Program - Verona Internship Video

Commissioner Madigan was not present and Commissioner Key said she would like to discuss this program when he joined the meeting.

#2 - BUILDING AND ENERGY - Energy Efficiency, Green House Gas/Municipal Carbon Footprint, Green Design, Innovative Demonstration Projects. Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Hoogerheyde, JR Frank, Mark Niederman, Ryan Lewis

1. NJ Clean Energy Program – Home Energy Audit Program - possible SJ action points

Commissioner Key said the Mark Niederman will be working on this action.

2. August Bergen HUB Steering Committee Meeting (Aug. 1st) in Oradell – John Adams

Green Team Member John Adams said that the focus was grant proposals. There are 3-\$10,000 grants available to tie into Sustainable Jersey. Additional specifics will be provided next meeting.

#3 - LAND USE AND LOCAL BUSINESS - Land Use & Transportation, Local Economies, Natural Resources, Animals in the Community. Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Hoogerheyde, Commissioner Melchionne, Ryan Lewis, Dan O'Connell

1. Monarch Butterfly Garden - signage – Beth Fischer, Wendy Rosica

Beth Fischer, Wyckoff School's Green Liaison to the WEC/WGT said she has been in touch with Wendy Rosica who originally planted the butterfly garden. She is waiting for a vendor and

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some quotes. Beth will provide specifics but would like a simple laminated wood sign, similar to the signs at the library Rain Garden and the Labyrinth, and giving credit to the Girl Scout Troup.

#4 - WASTE MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES – Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Melchionne, Commissioner Cascio, John Adams, Nick Rea, Allison Sassano, Jasmine Ho.

1. NEW recycling rules.

A lively discussion ensued concerning the new recycling rules.

2. Bergen H.U.B. - Styro Education & Recycling Update - John Adams

Green Team Member John Adams said he shared a flyer designed by the Bergen HUB Styrofoam Committee which will advertised the opportunity to discard Styrofoam to keep out of the landfill. He said Styrofoam is NOT accepted as part of the Bergen County Utility Authority Household Hazardous Waste Collection. He said that Glen Rock (September 23rd from 12 to 3) and Leonia (September 22nd from 10 to 3) are taking the lead and hosting a Styrofoam collection drive for all towns in Bergen County.

3. Household Hazardous Waste - Next collections: Sept.8, Oct. 14, Nov. 17

The next Household Hazardous Waste day will be September 8, 2018 in Mahwah.

#5 - MEDIA AND PRESS RELATIONS – Commissioner Key, Commissioner Homaychak

1. Recylcometer – Update

Commissioner Key said the May recylcometer was 32.94%; June 32.19% and July 28.55%. Committeemen Madigan reminded all that our **real focus** is on minimizing solid waste going into landfills as well as solid waste for which the taxpayers pay for.

2. WEC website/Facebook/Twitter – Update

Commissioner Key said that she sent a request to Nancy Cole, Webmaster, to add a drop down link, titled "SJ Bergen HUB" on the left side of the WEC/WGT webpage.

Other Items

1. Junior Members Project Updates

Junior Members Jasmine Ho, Allison Sassano and Alex Sullivan updated the Commissioners on their projects. The Commissioners reminded the Junior Members that they will be presenting their projects in December.

Old Business

John Adams asked about an update on Ridgewood Water. He said his concern is water quality and sustainability. Committeeman Madigan said the Mayor and Committeeman Shanley plan to meet with Ridgewood Water to discuss water quality and alternative water suppliers. He added that the Township Committee has passed a resolution to have a seat at the table with Ridgewood water as well as demanding a full refund to Wyckoff residents as per litigation addressing overcharging of water rates as obtained by the Court.

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Green Team Member JR Frank said Sustainable Jersey certification should be secondary to the Wyckoff Environment Commission to focus on items that are good environmentally for the Township of Wyckoff. He said there should be guidelines for Ridgewood Water quality and runoff. He added that he had developed a Stormwater maintenance guideline for the township engineer to follow. Committeemen Madigan said he would look into this project. Commissioner Melchionne and Commissioner Cascio said it is duly noted the goal of Sustainable Jersey certification which is to promote an environmentally sustainable program in Wyckoff. Committeemen Madigan also emphasize about the tireless work on behalf of the Environmental Commission should be on goals for the Township of Wyckoff while they participate in the Sustainable Jersey Program.

Planning Board Update – Robert Fortunato was not present.

Next meeting – September 17, 2018

Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan McQuaid, Secretary
Wyckoff Environmental Committee