

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2020**

**DATE:** Monday, October 19, 2020  
**TIME** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Zoom Webinar Online

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Melchionne. The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by Environmental Commission Secretary Ms. Capparelli:

“The October 19, 2020 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 was taken**

- Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Celeste Homaychak, Lisa Koeber, Ben Weiner, Chairman Peter Melchionne
- Jr. Commissioners: Charlotte Cannizzo, Lauren Markariann,
- Absent: Commissioner John Nicol, Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Planning Board Liaison Anthony Riotto, Jr Commissioner Ashley Park
- Green Team Volunteers present: Beth Fischer, JR Frank

**Motion to approve minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Koeber

Capparelli Y Vice Chairwoman Homaychak Y Koeber Y Nicol Absent  
Riotto Absent Weiner Y Chairman Melchionne Abstain

**I. PRIORITY ITEMS:**

1. Chairman Melchionne thanked all Commissioners who helped to assist at the Team Up to Tidy Up event. Commissioner Capparelli also thanked Chabad of Franklin Lakes for donating masks, Pete Melchionne for donating disposable safety gloves and the Chamber of Commerce who donated reusable bags to distribute the cleanup supplies to volunteers. Ms. Capparelli reported that the Team Up to Tidy Up event was a success. This year they received a larger than normal turnout with more than 50 individual/groups of almost 285 residents registered to volunteer at 28 public cleanup sites throughout town. Approximately 73 bags of trash and 32 bags of recyclables were collected by DPW. The police collected 4 lbs. of unused medication for their drug take back program and some parents requested community service hours for their children who volunteered.
2. Commissioner Capparelli stated that the Township is requiring mandated training for their new Child Protection Policy. Environmental Commission volunteers are required to complete a 20-minute online training and will receive a copy of the Township's policy. Information will be forthcoming.

**II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. *Re-Usable Bag Program*- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the Environmental Commission/Green Team reusable Bag committee will host their first virtual event- a live “one time” movie screening of the movie Bag It about plastics and their impact on the environment. Originally scheduled to be held at the Wyckoff library this event was canceled due to COVID-19. As an alternative, the virtual movie screening is scheduled for

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Wednesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Community outreach and posters, flyers and e-flyers are being distributed by Jr. Commissioner Lauren Markariann to stores and the local public middle and high schools.. A guest speaker from ANJEC will be joining for a Q&A after the movie. Due to COVID-19, the supermarkets were not amenable to solicitation of free giveaways at their stores. In lieu of the public outreach via supermarkets, the free bag giveaway will be available by request to all who attend the Bag It online movie along with educational information on plastics and composting. A survey was also created for movie attendees which will help to increase our WEC distribution list as well as provide feedback.

2. *Sustainable Jersey/Gardinier Environmental Fund Grant* – Commissioner Capparelli stated the electrical lighting upgrades to Town Hall, DPW and Fire Co. 1 are complete. Scheduling is underway for HVAC upgrades and a new AC system at the Larkin House. Plans for public outreach are still in process.
3. No other grant opportunities were discussed

### III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Single Use Plastic Bag – On Thursday, September 24, the NJ legislation A1978/S864 received support from the NJ Assembly's to pass the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act . The bill is now awaiting final signature and approval from Governor Murphy to be signed into law. Chairman Melchionne addressed the Commission on how this new ban will affect Wyckoff and to brainstorm ways to educate our community. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Commissioner Weiner mentioned that there needs to be an element to address this with the business community as well. Co-Chair Homyachak mentioned this new legislation would be good to discuss at the Bag It webinar. Chairman Melchionne requested a copy of the legislation to be forwarded to WEC members.
2. Request suggestions to encourage greater resident participation in recycling. Commissioner Weiner mentioned some Green Team members researched an online database website to track Green Team. activities for Sustainable Jersey reporting. Sustainable Jersey is looking for interest from 6 towns to participate in a pilot program. More information will be provided.
3. Commissioner Capparelli mentioned she is participating in a workshop with the NJ Recycling Association as part of a panel of municipalities that use the Recycle Coach app in their towns. The panel is Tues., Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.
4. Ridgewood Water- Chairman Melchionne asked for any ideas as this was not discussed with the Environmental Commission. There has been some previous community concern regarding quality and cost and some mention if it is a community wide issue or are the water issues affecting just to pocketed areas in Wyckoff. Chairman Melchionne will touch base with Township Liaison Boonstra for an update at the next meeting. A possible survey to residents about water quality was suggested but would have to be discussed further with Township Committee Liaison Mr. Boonstra.

### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- Jr Commissioner Updates-
  - Charlotte Cannizzo contacted our local farm, Abma's to discuss the possibility of using pizza boxes as a composting alternative. At this time, they are not able to use the pizza boxes during the fall and winter time. In the meantime, Ms. Cannizzo will be creating stickers/flyers to alert residents that pizza boxes are to be disposed in the trash.
  - Lauren Markariann will assist Commissioner Capparelli on the promotion of the reusable bag promotion. Ms. Markariann contacted the middle school with webinar information and link as well as a recommended Bag It Movie educator's curriculum plan. Lauren will create a slide of tips for attendees.
  - Mrs. Homyachak reported that Ashley Park, is working on a child friendly educational coloring book about the importance of Climate Change. More information to follow.
- Bergen HUB updates – Commissioner Weiner reported that the Glen Rock Green Team was able to reach an agreement with the Styrofoam drive vendor to take the Styrofoam free of charge. The other vendor will be charging to take away the Styrofoam. Mr. Melchionne stated that the Township Super Recycling was

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**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2020**

cancelled but may consider doing a drive if cost effective. Ms. Homaychak inquired if there is a cost. Mr. Weiner will investigate. Next HUB meeting is Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> hosted by Upper Saddle River.

3. Green Team Updates –

- JR. Frank reported that the FLOW Film festival is on hold until next year due to COVID-19. JR Frank requested the number of recycling tonnage to date and it would be good to see the comparison between recycling and trash. Have we seen an increase in the number of recyclables since Dual stream? Mr. Frank inquired if the Township included Environmental Commission input on the recent Master Plan update. Chairman Melchionne stated that the Environmental Commission was not involved and this is something that will need to be confirmed by the Planning Board Liaison. Chairman Melchionne suggested Mr. Frank attend the online Township Committee meeting to address this concern.
- Ms. Capparelli stated all public outreach for the SJ/Gardinier grant is on hold until the spring

4. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Homaychak reported there is no activity at this time due to school schedules/closures.
5. Recycle Coach App – Commissioner Capparelli reported Recycle Coach also known as My Waste has developed a new portal and is more user friendly, with more statistics and data. The numbers changed since the conversion and need to be confirmed. The report did show that the majority of Wyckoff subscribers access the app via their mobile phones.
6. Composting/Waste Stream Reduction events- Commissioner Weiner has offered to coordinate another compost event sometime next year. Mr. Weiner met with Abma's Farm and discussed sharing composting information along with their membership in their local harvest community supported agriculture program (CSA)
7. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- a hazardous waste event will be held November 14<sup>th</sup> in Moonachie
8. Green Team Volunteer Comments
9. Planning Board Report – no updates at this time
10. Next Meeting – November 16, 2020, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

**ADJOURNMENT** – a motion was passed (Homaychak) and seconded (Koeber) to adjourn the business meeting, all in favor. The business meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Capparelli  
Commissioner/WEC Secretary  
Wyckoff Environmental Commission