

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Public Business Meeting Minutes
April 19 2021

DATE: Monday, April 19, 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 April 19, 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 Homyachak, Lisa Koeber, Ben Weiner, Planning Board Liaison Mae Bogdanský and Township Committee Liaison Rudy Boonstra, Jr Commissioners Charlotte Cannizzo, Sebastian Dash, Lauren Markariann
- Absent: Roger Lane
- Green Team Volunteers present: none
- Public present- Peter Ho, Alexandra Hapunik, Ramapo High School

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

Motion: Capparelli Second: Weiner

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

Motion to approve submission of a proposal to create a stand alone social media page for the Environmental Commission/Green Team

Motion: Fischer Second: Bogdanský

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

I. PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Jr. Commissioner goals for 2021- Chairwoman Homyachak stated that projects have been assigned according to Commissioner's priority projects. Ms. Homyachak wanted to thank Commissioner Weiner for creating a checklist for the projects. Students will meet with Ms. Homyachak and Commissioner Fischer after the WEC meeting. Earth Day and Team Up to Tidy Up are priority projects. Ms. Homyachak congratulated composting project team specifically Commissioner Fischer for coordinating the event and mentioned that Commissioners should begin to gather photos and information about projects for future Sustainable Jersey Re-Certification
2. Chair Homyachak 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 Homyachak 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. Homyachak asked all to save the date and reminded the group that we would meet at the Zabriskie Pond at 9am for a group "Covid compliant" photo before volunteering to clean up around town. Commissioner Capparelli will send consent form for photos and

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asked Commissioners to help get donations of reusable bags from local retail stores. Ms. Capparelli shared she was able to obtain reusable bag donations again this year from the Chamber of Commerce. Special thanks to Commissioner Fischer and her daughter for upcycling t-shirts into re-usable bags for the TUTU supplies.. Commissioner Capparelli stated at this time 30 groups have registered but expects more before the end of the week. Ms. Fischer shared that the K-8 schools have representation for attending and she will reach out to Eisenhower React Club. Ms. Capparelli will reach out to high school environmental clubs as she has not received any registrants thus far.

4. Fishing Derby- is scheduled for June 5th. at 8:30am at Zabriskie Pond. Commissioner Capparelli stated that this is an Environmental Commission sponsored event and that Commissioners/Jr Commissioners are expected to attend and assist at the event.

II. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Sustainable Jersey/Gardiner Environmental Fund Grant – Commissioner Capparelli there is no update at this time
2. ANJEC posted the new 2021 for Open Space Stewardship grant in the amount of \$1500. No proposals were received for this round.
3. Please provide any grant opportunities to Commissioner Capparelli with thorough and complete information for the Township to approve.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Single Use Plastic Bag* – still awaiting NJ State policy on implementing the new legislation and HUB updates. *Ridgewood Water*- Ridgewood Water is holding another Community Planning virtual session on April 20th at 12noon. Commissioner Capparelli will provide the registration link to Commissioners
1. *Electric Vehicle Charging Stations*- Mr. Boonstra reported that property owners have been noticed and the project at Cedar Hill shopping area is moving along. Mr. Boonstra also shared that the Township is receiving funding for installation of an EV charging station. The Township plans to purchase an electrical vehicle for the building department in 2022. Design plans for an outside car port to cover the electric vehicles is being discussed.
2. Chair Homaychak attended ANJEC's webinar on Social Media Engagement for Environmental Commissioners and reported that she believes it is in the best interest of the community to have a separate Environmental/Green Team social media page that can be updated and managed regularly by Ms. Homaychak or another Commissioner and would include all relevant information pertaining to environmental activities in Wyckoff or surrounding towns on a more regular basis. This would be an enhancement to the Township's website and social media posts. Chair Homaychak suggested a roll call vote for her to submit a proposal to the Township Committee to move forward with this project. All in favor for Chair Homaychak to submit a proposal. Public participant Ms. Hapunik commented that she thinks social media will be great to have as this is a very common medium used especially among her generation.
3. ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) – Chairwoman Homaychak reminded Commissioners of training opportunities and stressed the importance of ANJEC education as a valuable resource available to Commission members at no cost. Ms. Homaychak asked if any members will take the training, Reply - no one at this time. Commissioner Fischer attended a webinar on Open Space. If anyone is interested in follow up information please contact Ms. Fischer.
4. *RecycleBalls* tennis recycling program – resident, Peter Ho, gave a brief presentation about the program. He stated that bins are purchased one time and do not have to be returned. Tennis balls can be returned in any cardboard box and returned through the postal service. He stated there is no charge or contract (obligation) with the program. You can return the tennis balls as often as you would like. He informed that the company has a machine that takes the tennis balls and recycles them for pet toys, equestrian running padding, etc. He mentioned Waldwick is currently using this program. Mr. Ho has offered to send the recyclable balls back to the company. The company provides prepaid labels at no fee to send the tennis balls back to them. He suggested putting the bins out during the spring/fall season and store in the winter. It is recommended to purchase a one time bin for \$189.00. He added that this program is low maintenance. Mr. Ho reported at this

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time 83 people have registered for the tennis pass for the spring season. He stated he finds many tennis balls that are left at the courts. Committeeman Boonstra inquired about how many tennis balls will be picked up in a season. Mr. Ho relied about 200-300 per season are left behind which he is currently trying to send back on his own. He expressed Wyckoff tennis uses approximately 4-6 boxes of tennis balls per season. Mr. Ho suggested maybe the high school students who check badges can possibly man the bins for overflow. Chair Homaychak suggested high school tennis clubs can volunteer to collect the receptacles if they get full. Township Committeeman Mr. Boonstra recommended they get input from the Recreation Director before any final decisions is made.

5. Chair Homaychak and Commissioner Weiner created an Earth Day video for the ANJEC Hop In site that highlights what various NJ towns are doing for Earth Day. Chair Homaychak mentioned they wanted to highlight Jr. Commissioner projects and included a previous Air Quality project from a former Jr. Commissioner. She hopes to have more information at the May meeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Jr. Commissioner Updates: Chair Homaychak 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 project mentoring. Chair Homaychak informed that Jr Commissioner Charlotte will begin a new project to create PSA's for elementary schools with approval from the Board of Education. Jr. Commissioner Lauren is working on a Trex program and is awaiting a location to collect the plastic films, possibly outside the library, and Sebastian is looking into a project relating to the Bergen County Riverkeeper.
2. Bergen HUB updates – Mr. Weiner reported that he has now been the Township's HUB liaison for a year. The HUB group has broken into subcommittees of which one committee is an EV subcommittee and they will be holding a webinar E Vehicle 100 which may be of interest to our town. He reported that Ridgewood is doing a composting pilot program with about 90 households who will receive a 5 gallon bin for each household to collect compost and take to their DPW which would then transport the material to Trenton to a facility that composts waste. This program would expand upon typical composting to includes more food items such as meat, eggs, etc. Ridgewood hopes to develop this into a town wide program. Mr. Weiner inquired about a tree sapling program from the state DEP and would like to research free saplings for our town. Commissioner Weiner, through the Bergen HUB, reported that a United Nations youth group put together information from different towns for Earth Day.
3. Stormwater Management ordinance is currently in the planning stage
4. Ms. Capparelli reported at the end of March there were 61 new subscribers to Recycle Coach. Commissioner Capparelli reported that she reached out to the President of the Wyckoff Newcomers Club via email to inquire if they are interested in including information about Recycle Coach. Commissioner Bogdansky recommended maybe to add a Recycle Coach announcement to the school Friday e-folders.
5. Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA)- Household Hazardous will be held on Saturday, May 15th in Mahwah and the other Tire/Electronics recycling at BCUA will be held on April 25th in Paramus
6. Chair commended Commissioner Weiner for summarizing the Ridgewood Water community Zoom meeting. Mr. Weiner stated that it seems only certain areas of Wyckoff have been experiencing water issues. He mentioned there will probably be a rate increase for Ridgewood Water to incur infrastructure to mitigate the water quality problem. Commissioner Capparelli mentioned that the meeting notice was posted on the Towns E-News, Facebook and Instagram page.

V. GREEN TEAM UPDATES:

7. School's Green Team Business: Ms. Fischer reported that Coolidge is doing a small event for Earth Day and Commissioners are welcome to stop by and lend a hand. Ms. Fischer stated they are providing all elementary teachers (80) a plant for Earth Day. Eisenhower garden has been running successfully and only has one more bed to be adopted.

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8. Green Film Festival – Ms. Fischer reported that the FLOW Film Series will hold 2 events partnering with FLOW towns. The first FLOW event will be a virtual movie on May 19th at 7:00pm on the “Environmental Effects of Fashion” A second “family friendly” “Under the Stars” event featuring the movie, Walle, will be hosted at Franklin Lakes Parsons Pond on Saturday, June 19th with a rain date of Sunday, June 20th. Flyers will be forwarded for Township dissemination.
9. SJ/Gardinier Public Outreach- Ms. Capparelli reported no updates at this time.
10. Planning Board Report – Commissioner Bogdansk reported that the Planning Board approved a fence and pool application. Pool applications are now online helping to streamline the process. She reported that there have been many pool applications submitted in recent months.

NEXT MEETING – May 17, 2021, 7:00pm – Location/virtual meeting to be decided

ADJOURNMENT – a motion was passed (Fischer) and seconded (Capparelli) to adjourn the business meeting. All in favor. The meeting concluded at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Capparelli
Environmental Commissioner/Secretary