

WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January Public Business Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, January 22, 2018
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 2nd Floor Conference Room
Memorial Town Hall, Wyckoff, NJ

MEMBERS PRESENT: John McCauley, Chair; Christine Key; Tom Madigan, Committeeman; Denise Capparelli; Robert Fortunato, Planning Board Liaison; Nick Rea, Junior Member Bergen Academies; Dan O’Connell, Junior Member Ramapo; Jasmine Ho, Junior Member Indian Hill’s; Allison Sassano, Junior Member Ramapo; Alex Sullivan, Junior Member Ramapo; Susan McQuaid, Secretary.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Celeste Homyachak; Randy Hoogerheyde; Peter Melchionne

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS: JR Frank; John Adams; Mark Niederman; Stacy Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by John McCauley, Chairman.

The Open Public Meeting Notice was read by John McCauley:

“The January 22, 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.

I Motion to approve minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting

Motion: Key Second: Fortunato
Fortunato Y Melchionne AB Homyachak AB Capparelli Y
Key Y Hoogerheyde AB Madigan Y McCauley Y

II Environmental Commission (Green Team) Activities/Programs/ANJEC Grants for 2018

Upcoming and Past Events

• FLOW Film Festival

JR Frank, Green Team Task Force Member said the FLOW Film Festival will be March 1 at the Wyckoff Library, March 8 at the Wyckoff Library, March 15 at Ramapo High School and March 22 at the Wyckoff Library. The movies will be on Solar Energy, Butterflies, Food Waste and Green design. A formal brochure will be prepared and given out to the schools and placed on the Wyckoff Website as a SAVE THE DATE event.

III New Business

• NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM – HOME ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

Commissioner Key said Mark Niederman and Bill Novy worked on a home energy event 2 years ago. She said the City of Summit performed a home energy audit program. They were hoping to do 150 energy assessments and they did 208 of which 40 have converted to retrofit projects that

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will result in energy savings. The home energy audits cost \$49.00. The City of Summit added 20 points to their Sustainable Jersey certification with this work: Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach action. Commissioner Key said she would like to see Wyckoff participate in this type of energy program. Mark Niederman, Green Team Task Force Member, said the homeowners were able to get grants to convert their homes. He said there is a 20 pt. Sustainable Jersey incentive. Commissioner Key said she met with Bob Shannon and the WEC should find out what percentage of Summit residents participated in this audit, how much would it cost, and how would we present the audit to the township. Once this information is gathered it will be presented to the Township Committee.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT**

Commissioner Capparelli said there is a sub-committee meeting next Wednesday, January 31, 2018 to finalize the last few sections of the inventory book. Additional meetings will be on February 7, 21 and 28. The Project Team are working with the printer and would like to see a proof of the book with pictures and charts before it is printed.

- **SUSTAINABLE JERSEY – Certification renewal/Achievement list submittal**

Chairman McCauley asked what we achieved in 2017 and what our expectations for 2018 are. Commissioner Key said the Commissioner will need to document the items that were accomplished in 2017 and moving forward. Commissioner Key said that on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 she, along with Commissioner Capparelli and JR Frank will meet with Lauren Skowronski at Sustainable Jersey to possibly form a regional hub in this area. This hub will help our green teams build capacity through training, best practice resources and networking. In keeping towns connected to each other, green teams gain the opportunity to learn what has been successful elsewhere in the state and partner on projects with neighboring towns and schools in order to boost limited resources.

- **RECYCLOMETER**

Commissioner Key reported that the November statistic was at 33.8%. Bob Shannon suggested the WEC team up with the schools and businesses to increase this percentage. John Adams, Green Team Task Force Member, said the bulk waste of garbage could be directed towards composting. Chairman McCauley said he would like to schedule a Saturday morning trip to the garbage and recycle facility in Newark, NJ. Many WEC and Junior Members showed an interest in joining this excursion. Commissioner Key suggested the WEC use doodle poll which is a website to find the best time for any event which invites participants to select their preferences. Commissioner Key said that Bob Shannon is trying to get the word out about sprinklers and storm water drains. She suggested that the 5 Junior Members assist with these projects. Commissioner Capparelli suggested that the Junior Members also work with the so-called *phantom energy* (or “vampire power”) which is the electricity drawn from outlets when equipment is off but still plugged in. Many types of electronics and office equipment, including computers, stereos and printers, continue to draw electricity when they're plugged in and off.

- **FLOW FILM FESTIVAL**

JR Frank reported on this activity at the beginning of the meeting

- **TEAM UP TO TIDY UP (TUTU) - Saturday, April 28, 2018 (rain date Saturday, May 5, 2018)**
- **SHREDFEST – Saturday, April 28, 2018 – 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

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Chair McCauley said TUTU will be the same day as the Shredfest. Both events will begin at 8:30 a.m. at different locations and volunteers will be needed. The Commissioners discussed printing more of the bookmarks that were used last year as well as having another T-shirt contest. Chair McCauley said they will need to know what their budget is. At the meeting next month a decision will be made as to what the contest will consist of.

- **WYCKOFF SCHOOL'S GREEN WEC/WGT LIAISON REPORT**

Commissioner Key gave an update from Beth Fischer, liaison to the elementary and middle schools, reported that Coolidge Elementary School now has a Green Team, and they have been meeting to get the Green Team up and running. Our primary focus for this year, primarily at the request of Mr. Famularo, is to enhance and maintain the courtyard garden. We are transforming it into a Sensory Garden. It will be created with sustainable and recycled materials and designed to encourage students to learn about, understand and appreciate the environment...and they have a role in its care and protection. At Lincoln Elementary School this past November we had our "create a bird feeder" event; in April we are doing our "earth day" event; this May we are doing a "spring planting" event for the new school garden; in June we are doing our "create a pot" event; in September we are doing a "fall planting" event for the new school garden. At Sicomac Elementary School they are doing their annual Electronics recycling for the month of January and have partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County who recycles through Planet Green with any proceeds going toward their building projects. Green Ambassadors used BCUA grant money to get new TerraCycling containers for every classroom and we laminated posters for each classroom so students know what can be Terracycle with the idea that the posters can be used from year to year. Our next project is to paint rocks with green messages and place them throughout Wyckoff (similar to the Kindness Rocks movement). At Washington Elementary School Report we added a bench with storage to our courtyard. The 4th grade came out to clean up the courtyard for the winter. We are planning on putting together a hydroponic system that will be on a cart this winter. And at Eisenhower Elementary School we recently bought 2 outdoor storage cubes/seats for the Community Garden. Bee Buzzers (8th grade WEL students) are working on their informational flyers about the pollinator plants they put in this fall.

Commissioner Capparelli said she is in the process of updating the Best Practice Calendar which will be posted on the Wyckoff website. Commissioner Key said the FLOW Film Festival and Junior Member Nick Rea's brochure and Junior Member Dan Sullivan's flyer will also be posted on the website. Alex Sullivan, Junior Member, said that he has a drone and would like to be the photographer at the WEC events.

IV Old Business

- **MAYOR'S WELLNESS COMMITTEE** (a component of Sustainable Jersey)

- ♥ February is Healthy Heart month

Commissioner Madigan said the Mayor's Wellness website is updated every week with useful and timely wellness information for residents.

V PLANNING BOARD UPDATE

Commissioner Robert Fortunato said the Bank of America is seeking approval for an ATM Kiosk on the drive thru lane. Testimony will continue at the February 14, 2018 Planning Board meeting.

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VI Green Team Task Force Updates

1. Green Team Task Force Reports
 - a. Community
 - b. Building and Energy
 - c. Land Use and Local Business
 - d. Waste Management, Operations and Facilities
 - e. Media and Press Relations

VII Next meeting – February 26, 2018

VIII Adjournment

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan McQuaid, Secretary
Wyckoff Environmental Committee