

**WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Public Business Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18, 2019**

**DATE:** Monday, March 18, 2019  
**TIME** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Wyckoff Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners: Denise Capparelli, Beth Fischer, Celeste Homaychak, Christine Key, Chairman Peter Melchionne, Robert Fortunato (Planning Board Liaison), Melissa Rubenstein, Township Committeewoman (left early)

**STUDENT JR COMMISSIONERS:** John Cannizzo, RHS; Camille Dash, RHS; Ashley Park, BCTECH

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Commissioner Matt Cascio, Jr. Commissioners: Dan O'Connell, Jasmine Ho, Nick Rea, Christopher Keary and Jack Stathis (need to confirm member)

**GREEN TEAM TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS PRESENT** JR Frank, Alex Sullivan

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

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

“The March 18, 2019 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 revised minutes from the February 25, 2018 meeting as amended**

Motion: Homaychak Second: Fischer  
Capparelli Y Cascio Absent Fischer Y Fortunato Y Homaychak Y  
Key Y Melchionne Y

**PRIORITY ITEMS:**

1. Sustainable Jersey 2019 Re-Certification – Commissioner Key shared that the 2019 SJ Application Cycle Submission deadline is June 2, 2019. Responsibilities for entering the completed SJ actions into the SJ website will be shared by Celeste (10 actions), Christine (13 actions) and Denise (16 actions). As we move forward, Ms. Key suggested that all team volunteers should meet with their Task Force Leader prior to the deadline to allow sufficient time to upload all the information into the website for the Re-certification deadline. Ms. Key stated that “the goal is to have all actions entered into the website by the end of April, very early May.” She stated that we still have to address as a group the Green Business Recognition Award Action #90C TF#3 for 10 points. Several people have offered to help, but not lead.

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#### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. SJ 2019 Small Grant Program (presently submitted) – Re-usable Shopping Bag- Commissioner Key reported if the SJ grant is not awarded to Wyckoff, WEC will request funds from the WEC budget for the re-usable shopping bags.
2. BCUA Environmental Awareness Grant Up to \$1,000 - Due May 3, 2019. a grant for schools that conduct activities that relate to environmental awareness. Commissioner Fischer will investigate any opportunities with schools to apply for the grant
3. ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant - Due April 15, 2019- Commissioner Capparelli reminded all of the grant (up to \$1,500) for Environmental Commissioners for projects relating to open space management, administration and education projects. The grant deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Fischer will be researching any possible projects for the grant.
4. BCUA –(\$3,000 grant opportunity) Due Feb 2019- Commissioner Key inquired if the Township applied for the grant. Commissioner Capparelli replied that the information was previously forwarded to WEC. Wyckoff did not apply for the grant as there were no proposals presented by the WEC. Per Commissioner Key, Green Team Volunteer submitted a previous email proposal.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Team Up to Tidy Up - Sign-up sheets for volunteers are still available at the end of the meeting to sign up. Commissioner Fischer mentioned that a local Girl Scout troop obtaining their Bronze Award is working on a compost/recycling brochure and posters and have requested to have them available at the TUTU. All Commissioners voted in favor.
2. Shredfest Day – scheduled for April 27- 8:30 am – 11:30am. A sign-up sheet is available for volunteers.
3. Commissioner Capparelli reported that the ANJEC training workshop called *Fundamentals for Effective Commissioners* was re-scheduled due to snow for Saturday, May 18 in Ridgefield. (Bergen County), 9:00am- 1:30pm. Commissioner members of ANJEC can attend at no fee
4. FLOW Film Festival- Green Team volunteer JR Frank reported the first FLOW Green series film held on March 14 at the Wyckoff Library was successful. The next movie will be on Friday, March 22 at the Oakland Public Library (see comments under Task Force 1).
5. Chairman Melchionne reported that Commissioner Capparelli developed a Household Hazardous Waste public outreach/PSA that has been posted on the weekly E-News to residents. If anyone can design any effective and impactful bulletins they would like to submit, they can forward to the Chairman.
6. Student JR Commissioner Project Topics- three Jr. Commissioners presented their project ideas as follows:
  - Jasmine Ho (absent) will continue to work on the re-usable bag project
  - Nick Rea (absent) will continue to work on Composting Initiatives and another project TBD
  - Camille Dash- Solar Energy Awareness and a pamphlet for household distribution to outline environmental and economic benefits of going solar.
  - Ashley Park- Create a Step By Step Recycling Coloring book for elementary students. Educate students about recycling through outreach efforts to schools & their environmental clubs
  - John Cannizzo- Do it yourself art project for students to design their own personalized recycling crates to take home and incentivize families to recycle. Coordinate event with library's Children's program.
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#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dual Days Recycling Weekly Challenge- Commissioner Capparelli no updates at this time
2. Recycle Coach App- Commissioner Capparelli reported that 54 new subscribers enlisted in February, 2019 for a total of 1,166 subscribers year to date since August 2018. Commissioner Capparelli stated that there has been a big push toward re-promoting the Recycle Coach App through the Township's website, E-News and social media sites.
3. Monarch Butterfly Sign- Commissioner Capparelli reported that the project will finally be completed this week and anticipates delivery early April for a Spring installation from the DPW.
4. Mayor's Wellness- Commissioner Homaychak reported that the Facebook page was updated with posts pertaining to the Influenza and March 17 as National Poison Prevention Week.

**PLANNING BOARD UPDATE** – Commissioner/Planning Board Liaison Robert Fortunato no new updates at this time.

**NEXT MEETING** – April 15, 2019 at 7:00pm to be held in the Ladder Back Room, Second Fl. Town Hall.

#### **TASK FORCE ITEMS:**

**TASK FORCE #1 COMMUNITY** - Partnership and Outreach, Diversity & Equity, Health and Wellness, Food, Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation. *Commissioner Key, Commissioner Homaychak, Commissioner Beth Fischer, JR Frank and Alex Sullivan*

Green Team Volunteers – see updates below

1. Environmental Commission Green Team- no updates
2. Wyckoff School's Green WEC/WGT Liaison Report – Commissioner Beth Fischer gave the following report on the schools:
  - Commissioner Fischer reported the Eisenhower Book Mural made news in The Record, Patch and USA Today media publications.
  - Commissioner Fischer reported Mrs. Chen, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher at Eisenhower Middle School, is using the Wyckoff ERI document as a resource to develop some action problems for student learning. She has requested if members of the Commission can support her efforts. Commissioner Fischer to provide further details
  - Commissioner Fischer has requested to participate in the Sicomac School Healthy Living Fair representing the WEC. She would act as School Liaison to distribute educational materials on composting, anti-Idling, FLOW Film series and Monarch Butterfly Brochure. All Commissioners voted in favor.
  - Commissioner Fischer reported that Girl Scout Troop 94686 will be presenting their Gold project to the Environmental Commission in June. All in favor. To be added to the June WEC Agenda
  - Girl Scout Troop 94686 would like to participate at the WEC table on Wyckoff Day to distribute information on native plants and distribute free packets of seeds to the public. All in favor.
3. Mayor's Wellness Committee (a component of Sustainable Jersey) – See report above.
4. Monarch Butterfly Garden – see report above.
5. Green Team Volunteers – JR Frank thanked Commissioner Key and Jr. Commissioners that assisted with research and provided information on animals for this event. Camille Dash created a flyer on environmental hazards to pets and created a short iMovie from the Pets of Flow Instagram page. Christopher Keary created a flyer on proper disposal of pet waste for the first Environmental

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FLOW film presented on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The next film is scheduled for March 22 at the Oakland Public Library. Jr. Commissioner Jasmine Ho will be part of a panel discussion after the presentation. Jr Frank will send individual movie flyers for posting to Chairman Melchionne. Jr Frank mentioned the 3/28 film date will host sponsorship from the American Institute of Architects. Commissioner Fortunato mentioned the 4/4 film will host four electric vehicles that will be on site at the Wyckoff library as part of the theme for the final movie.

6. Anti-Idling- Chairman Melchionne reported that the Wyckoff Police will not be available for interviews but will share Anti-Idling PSA's on their website and social media platforms. Per Commissioner Key, Wyckoff did not previously receive SJ points due to lack of enforcement of the Anti-Idling law. She has contacted the local Board of Ed for approval to reach out to schools to promote anti-idling. Chairman Melchionne will investigate Wyckoff's Resolution to support Anti-Idling.

### **SJ BERGEN HUB UPDATES**

1. As reported by Commissioner Key, the next *Bergen Hub meeting* will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Ridgefield Park. No topic has been chosen at this time.

### **TASK FORCE # 2 BUILDING AND ENERGY** - Energy Efficiency, Green House Gas/Municipal Carbon Footprint, Green Design, Innovative Demonstration Projects. *Commissioner Capparelli, Mark Niederman, John Cannizzo*

1. Commissioner Capparelli congratulated Green Team volunteer Mark Niederman on a great job coordinating the NJ Clean Energy presentation at the Chamber meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was attended by 50 + members.
2. Commissioner Capparelli reported she is working with task force volunteers Mark Niederman and John Cannizzo on the Energy Tracking/Mgmt. action to develop a Building Inventory to monitor energy usage. An energy audit will be conducted at some of the Township public facilities to meet the Energy Efficiency for Municipalities Action. The audit will not be complete by the time the Re-certification is submitted but will count toward initial points as we will be in the process of the audit. The Township will apply for possible points for new On-Site Solar System Actions. The Township has an inventory of 3 solar powered message boards and three (3) solar powered flashing signals. Re-adoption of existing resolutions to support a Green Building Policy and Green Lighting Policy will be presented to the Township Committee at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **TASK FORCE # 3 LAND USE AND LOCAL BUSINESS** - Land Use & Transportation, Local Economies, Natural Resources, and Animals in the Community. *Commissioner Robert Fortunato, Commissioner Capparelli, Dan O'Connell, JR Frank*

- 1 Commissioner Fortunato reported that he is working with Jr. Commissioner, Dan O'Connell, on some electric vehicle items that will tie into the April 4<sup>th</sup> FLOW Film on Electric cars
- 2 Commissioner Fortunato and JR Frank are coordinating an electric car presentation for FLOW Film festival on March 28.
- 3 Commissioner Capparelli reported that the Tree Protection Ordinance action will not be pursued during this Re-certification cycle. The Sustainable Land Use Pledge resolution will be on the March 19<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Agenda for re-adoption.

### **TASK FORCE # 4 WASTE MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES** – *Chairman Melchionne, Commissioner Capparelli, Commissioner Homaychak, John Adams, Nick Rea, Jasmine Ho.*

- 1 Green Team volunteer John Adams Household Hazardous Waste (smoke detector/electronic waste). (The Township already collects E-waste)- no update

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- 2 Commissioner Key reported on Jr. Commissioner Jasmine Ho's Re-usable Shopping Bag project. If the grant is not awarded, they will need other funds from the WEC budget to purchase the bags.
- 3 HHW bulletin created by Commissioner Capparelli promoted the BCUA HHW collection dates. The next collections are April 14, Paramus and May 11, Mahwah.
- 4 Shredfest- previously updated
- 5 Recycling Road Shows – no updates
- 6 Re-usable Bag – previously updated
- 7 As reported by Commissioner Key, Nick Rea, Jr. Commissioner's Backyard Composting workshop scheduled for March 30 from 10:00am until 11:00am at Russell Farms Community Park was approved by the Township Administrator. Nick is preparing educational information and has contacted speakers from Rutgers/BCUA and PIP for the event. Ashley Park is assisting with gathering information on vegetative waste and mulch available to residents at the Recycling Depot
- 8 Township Zero Waste Program- Commissioner Capparelli reported that, bi-weekly, at least six (6)- 50lb. bags of paper/cardboard were recycled at Town Hall the last 2 weeks thus helping to decrease our generation of waste.

**TASK FORCE # 5 MEDIA AND PRESS RELATIONS** – *Commissioner Homyachak, Commissioner Key.* Ms. Homyachak reported that she has posted on Wyckoff moms about answering questions pertaining to recyclables, proper recycling dates, schedules and the use of the Recycle Coach App.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise Capparelli*

Denise Capparelli, Commissioner/Green Team  
Volunteer/Commission Secretary  
Wyckoff Environmental Commission