

# WYCKOFF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## December Public Business Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Monday, December 18, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Memorial Town Hall, Wyckoff, NJ

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John McCauley, Chair; Christine Key; Tom Madigan, Committeeman; Celeste Homaychak; Robert Fortunato, Planning Board Liaison; Nick Rea, Junior Member Bergen Academies; Dan O'Connell, Junior Member Ramapo; Julia Alfano, Junior Member; Jasmine Ho, Junior Member; Alex Sullivan, Junior Member; Susan McQuaid, Secretary.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Denise Capparelli; Randy Hoogerheyde; Allison Sassano, Junior Member

**GREEN TEAM MEMBERS:** JR Frank

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 December 18, 2017 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 was made and seconded to adopt the November 20, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion: Homaychak Second: Key  
Fortunato Y Homaychak Y Capparelli AB  
Key Y Hoogerheyde AB Madigan Y McCauley Y

II **Environmental Commission (Green Team) Activities/Programs/ANJEC Grants for 2017**  
Upcoming and Past Events

III **New Business**

- **NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM – HOME ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM**

Commissioner Key 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 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. The Commissioners agreed this is a good idea. Chair McCauley said he will reach out to Mark Niederman and Bill Novi who worked on a similar energy project.

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Township Committee Member Madigan said that the Environmental Commission will need more information and was curious as to percentage of homes in Summit. He said this item will be further discussed in January and once the WEC information and thoughts are complete he will present it to the Township Committee.

- **SOLICITATION FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS**

Commissioner McCauley asked this item has been completed. Nick Rea and Dan O'Connell will be returning next year and Allison Sassano, Jasmine Ho and Alex Sullivan will become new Junior Members for 2018.

- **SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**

Chair McCauley said this item will be further discussed at the January meeting. He said he will contact Bob Shannon to discuss the certification renewal

- **RECYCLOMETER**

Commissioner Key said the meter was 32.27% in September and 36.22% in October. She was unable to obtain the November numbers.

- **"Waste It Once, Pay For It Twice"** – Public information program to encourage recycling.  
**Only rain in the drain** – Public information program to discourage littering and the typical types of people pollution.  
Chairman McCauley will speak with Bob Shannon after the New Year regarding the above items.

- **JUNIOR MEMBER PROJECTS**

- Julia Alfano said her project is titled Wildlife in Wyckoff. She said that due to the increase in residential development it has affected the habitat of the animals, birds and fish. She detailed the species that are prevalent in Wyckoff. Ms. Alfano was part of the Environmental Resource Inventory project and explained why we are seeing more animals in our backyards including bear.

- Dan O'Connell handed out his flyer to the Commissioners titled Wyckoff – How to Keep the Beauty – What's going on and way you can help. He said the earth is undergoing a process called climate change at an extremely accelerated rate, which is any change to the global climate. Factors causing this acceleration of global warming are the human race and its technologies releasing greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. He said a digital copy can be given to schools, social media, the town and WEC websites and handed out at Wyckoff Day & Earth Day. Commissioner McCauley said this presentation can be used for Sustainable Jersey. Commissioner Key and Commissioner Fortunato asked that the file in PowerPoint and flyer be put into a word document and emailed to Commissioner Capparelli.

- Nick Rea made a pamphlet titled Composting – How to save money and the environment. He conducted research by composting at his family home for 30 days and found that composting has the potential to save Wyckoff \$54,592.30 in garbage disposal costs in 2018.

Chair McCauley gave each Junior Member a certificate of recognition for their work as Junior Commissioner during the year 2017 signed by Mayor Boonstra and Chair McCauley. The Commissioners thanked Julia, Dan and Nick for their presentations.

JR Frank, Green Team Member, said that he is beginning to organize the FLOW film festival for 2018 and said he will have a monarch butterfly presentation, food waste, climate change and

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making our homes more energy efficient. The film dates will be March 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2018 at the Wyckoff Library. He said he needs a WEC liaison for the 2018 FLOW film festival. Commissioner Homyachak offered her assistance with the FLOW Film Festival this year. Junior Member Dan O'Connell will help with the March 15, 2108 at the Ramapo High School on climate change.

#### IV Old Business

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

Commissioner Madigan said the Mayor's Wellness website is updated every week with useful and timely wellness information for residents. He said the Mayors Wellness Committee is meeting this week and he will report on this item at the January meeting.

- **WEC WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/TWITTER**

The WEC will continue to monitor the WEC webpage

- **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT**

Commissioner Key and Commissioner Fortunato said the sub-committee will meet on Wednesday, January 3, January 10 and January 17 at the Library to review the rough draft section by section. Township Committeeman Madigan had a few technical printing questions of which the Commissioner responded that the charts will be in color and the front page of the ERI will also be in color. A price will be determined for a 100 page document and 25 colored charts. He said this resource will be used in the preparation of a master plan review as well as serving as a Sustainable Jersey best practice.

#### V Planning Board Update

Commissioner Fortunato said that he did not have anything to report.

#### 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

Commissioner Key said that Bergen County Sustainable Jersey will be speaking in Glen Rock on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. She also gave an update from Beth Fischer, liaison to the elementary and middle schools, reported that the next phase of the Garden Rehabilitation Project at Eisenhower School will happen as the plants mature and reproduce. We would like the nursery to be able to move cuttings out into the community. The Lincoln Go Green Team just completed their first event of the school year, Create a Bird Feeder, a couple of weeks ago. The students had fun and were super creative while designing and transforming their milk cartons into bird feeders. We are now starting to plan for our 1st annual Spring Planting event for the new Lincoln Peace Garden. The following plants will be planted in the planter boxes: cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, string beans, zucchini, eggplant, watermelon and herbs. At Sicomac Elementary School they collected 56 pounds of batteries. They will collect again in March. The next collection project is a denim recycling drive. Madewell Jeans, which has a store in the Garden State Plaza, collects worn out denim to be recycled into *Blue Jeans Go Green housing insulation*.

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There will be a bin outside the main office for the month of January. Also save the date for our 5th annual Healthy Living Fair and Recycled Planter Contest which is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2018.

**VIII Next meeting – January 22, 2018**

**IX Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan McQuaid, Secretary  
Wyckoff Environmental Committee