**Green Ridgewood-Green Team Virtual Meeting Minutes 20210107**

Attendance:

Green Ridgewood: Bob Upton, George Wolfson, Ellie Gruber, Christine Amundsen, Yvone Nava, Beth Creller, Pam Perron (Village Council Liaison)

Green Team: Justin Manger, George Wolfson, Ellie Gruber, Bob Upton, Anthea Zito, Diala Pharaon, Tony Mauriello, Michael Sedon (Village Council Liaison)

Additional: Miles Luo (RHS)

**1. Welcome/Introductions:**

Again, we extend thanks to Dylan Hansen for hosting us on Zoom.

**2. Approve December meeting minutes:**

Pam proposed and Christine seconded approval of the draft minutes from the December meeting which had been e-mailed to members on 12/13. Motion passed with no objections.

**3. Membership/Recruitment:**

Mike confirmed that appointment by the Village Council of a 10th Green Team Member will take place over the next work session and public meeting.

Rob Kearney has informed us he is no longer employed by the Village and has moved away. Pam will contact the Village Manager about replacing him as her representative to Green Ridgewood.

The annual election of Green Ridgewood Chair and Vice-Chair positions was held. Bob was nominated for Chair by Pam, seconded by Beth, and George was nominated for Vice-Chair by Bob, seconded by Ellie, and there being no other nominees, both were elected unanimously.

The election of Green Ridgewood Chair was not held as there were no candidates but Justin, retiring as Chair, and Tony agreed to work together to lead the submission of our application for Silver re-certification to Sustainable Jersey.

**4. Communications: Website, Social Media, Sustainable Ridgewood, etc:**

Justin continues to maintain our web site. Yvone and Beth are raising our profile on Facebook and have created a Green Ridgewood Instagram account. They also presented a draft calendar showing planned focus by month for each committee.

**5. Green Team/Sustainable Jersey**

As noted above Justin & Tony will coordinate our Sustainable Jersey re-submission.

Green Business Program: January is Restaurant month in Ridgewood and we plan to promote our Green Restaurants through social media.

Wildlife Action Plan: Mike confirmed this should be passed over the Jan 27th work session and next public meeting.

**6. Sustainable Bergen Hub**:

(i) The Hub met virtually on Tuesday December 8th hosted by Wyckoff. Minutes are on Basecamp. The meeting included a presentation from Lambertville EC on their Ditching Disposables initiative and reports from the Single Use Plastics, Creative Bergen, Styrofoam, sub-committees. Next Hub meeting proposed for January 26th hosted by Glen Rock reviewing their Energy Aggregation program.

 (ii) Creative Bergen – Anthea will send their artist application appeal to Yvone/Beth to be publicized.

(iii) The Single Use Plastics sub-committee met on Zoom on December 15th; need to get more information about recycling plastic film. Pam informed us the Ridgewood Rotary Club is starting a collection/recycling effort as part of the Trex program. She will provide specifics.

(iv) The Hub Styrofoam Sub-Committee – Bob and Yvone reported on the 2 Hub sponsored collections, Hillsdale December 26th and Fair Lawn January 2nd, both were very successful and had to shut down early due to quantity collected, especially Fair Lawn which got an overwhelming response. This sends a message to communities that there is a demand for Styrofoam recycling programs. Final accounting has to be completed but it appears sufficient grant funds will remain to sponsor a Ridgewood collection open to county residents. The Hub sub-committee plans to meet late January, details tba.

**7. Green Ridgewood Styrofoam Sub-Committee:**

Our previous collection in 2019 was on a Saturday so likely it will be again. March 20th or April 10th are possible dates which will need to be coordinated with Parks & Recreation, Recycling Department and police, after which Yvone will call a sub-committee meeting to plan the event with support from the Hub.

**8. RGEA (Renewable Government Energy Aggregation) sub-committee:**

Pam reported that at the Village Council meeting January 6th she had introduced a presentation about RGEA’s by the same team from Gabel Associates who had made a presentation to us in November. Bob spoke in public comments on behalf of Green Ridgewood asking the Council to consider entering into an RGEA. Bob proposed and Christine seconded a proposal, which was approved, to request the Council move ahead with an ordinance to initiate a program. As a next step the Council will discuss the proposal.

**9. Leaf blowers sub-committee:**

Pam reported the sub-committee is looking at ordinances in other towns, especially in NJ. A demonstration of gas powered leaf blowers was planned with the Parks Department but was postponed until spring.

**10. Earth Day**

It seems most unlikely that a traditional Earth Day Fair can take place in April. Bob has written to Nancy Bigos to suggest the usual planning committee meet to discuss alternatives.

**11. Grants:**

Sustainable Jersey responded to our inquiry that the PSEG Grant cycle, normally launched in November is now to be launched in January with a delayed application deadline.

**12. Planning Board:**

Bob & Pam observed Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting in which discussion of the Hopper ridge project was concluded. Again members are encouraged to observe these meetings to become familiar with procedures and to monitor for projects with environmental ramifications. A suggestion was made to start a roster of observers but for now we will see who will get involved. Beth volunteered to observe a forthcoming meeting.

**13. Food Waste:**

It was noted that the Recycling Department is hoping to start the Food Waste collection pilot program with 100 volunteer households in the next few weeks.

**14. By-Laws:**

Bob hopes to submit a final draft for consideration at the next meeting.

**15. ERI (Environmental Resource Inventory):**

With Rob’s departure from the Village the status of his work on an ERI is unclear. Ellie reiterated her belief that a consultant should be engaged by the Village for this purpose.

**16. Schools:**

Miles and Christine report that the RHS Green Club members hope to achieve SJ Bronze status this year.

**17. Next Joint Meeting will be Thursday February 4th at 7:00 PM, venue to be advised.**