

Minutes of GREEN RIDGEWOOD MEETING
Jan 5th, 2023, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Ridgewood Stable, Lower Level

Green Ridgewood attendees: Jill Fasano, David Refkin, Caitlin O’Leary, Pam Perron, Beth Creller, Yvone Nava, Nurhan Ezik

Green Team attendees: Mike Faherty, Justin Manger, Adam Peterseil

Guests: Miles Luo, Carolyn Jacoby, Bob Upton, Justin Jonsson, Sophia Florida.

Administration

1. Welcomed new members + Introductions

Voted to approve Dec 8th, 2022 minutes (edited attendees)

2. Chair Report

2023 is shaping up to be an exciting and busy year for Green Ridgewood including our role in implementing the master plan. Working to increase size of the committee to support our agenda for the year with the necessary resources.

3. Village Council

- Pam Perron and David Refkin appointed to the Planning Board.
- EAGR. Village engaged Gable Associates as a consultant.
- Sam Hamlin was appointed the point person for the Solid Waste Infrastructure Swifter (?). Professional grant writers will be used for this grant.
- Earth Day committee meeting on 01/10, at which point will go look for vendors, sponsors, etc.

4. Green Ridgewood Committee Membership - David

Two openings will be filled on Wednesday 01/11

Proposal drafted to increase the size of Green Ridgewood (from 6 to 8)
This will likely be discussed Jan 25th at the council meeting for a vote potentially early Feb. There are enough candidates to pick from if approved.

5. Middle School Project- Sonia

Ask Sonia to send us an update. Progress memo

Focus on GW Middle School

Will circulate Sonia’s initiative to the school representatives on 01/20

6. Earth Day & Daffodil Festival - Pam/Bob

The date is April 23 from 11am – 2 pm.

Ridgewood’s Master Plan and a call to action is likely the theme.

Ideas from Green Ridgewood for the event:

- Suggestion to repeat a Raffle to promote a topic.
- Call to volunteer
- Swag: bottles, magnets, wildflower seed packets, gardening tools, trees, give away bags, cookies with our logo.
 - o Can leverage Carolyn's connections as she can obtain seedlings for the event. She needs to know in advance to place the request.
- Dedicated tables to topics related to the Master Plan
- Author / Speaker to come talk to the event
- Book sale (Justin's books)
- School corner (meeting on 01/20 to kick off the conversation)
- Get vendor form distributed early on, so members can help distribute to different connections.
- Marketing: could we buy some Facebook / Instagram targeted advertisement for the event.

7. Green Team- Sustainable New Jersey Application - Mike

Tracker spreadsheet for the actions needed for silver certification (from Bronze). Tasks have been split amongst Green Team members. Documentation needed from the village. Mike will consolidate the requests and Pam will give feedback on how to structure the request to make it efficient.

Green Team and Green Ridgewood to continue to work together to drive synergies and make progress together.

Ellie Gruber – has decided to retire from the Green Team after many years of involvement on a variety of environmental issues in Ridgewood. Next Green Team meeting on 01/16 (zoom)

8. School Projects - Miles/Tessa

Tree Grant targeting 04/15 to plant trees
Composting is restarting as well.

9. Sub-Committee Structure/Master Plan/Leadership - David/Beth

Beth has a proposal (work in progress) that ties recommendations for the subcommittees.

The 5 subcommittees are:

- Communication (Caitlin O'Leary)
- Earth Day (Bob Upton)
- **Resource Management**, formerly Recycling (**TBD, should be a Green Ridgewood member**)
- **Green Building & Sustainability – (Beth Creller)**
- **Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater – (David Refkin)**

- **Green Team (TBD)**

The later three teams should meet in between Green Ridgewood meetings. Green Ridgewood to work with the Planning Board to ensure initiatives are aligned. With David and Pam representing us in the future, they will help link the different interests and priorities. Green Building & Sustainability to meet also with the Shade Tree commission soon.

A member to Green Team will be assigned to each subcommittee.

10. Ridgewood Planning Board - Sustainability Check-List

Pam and David have been appointed for one year. This should help highlight the role Green Ridgewood can play providing guidance as the master plan is implemented.

Sustainability checklist integrated into the Planning Board activities.

11. Goals/Actions for 2023

As outlined in prior points the goals for this year will revolve around the master plan activities voted by Green Ridgewood members that tie to the subcommittees created. In addition will link with other Village committees and the planning board to work in sync.

12. Potential use of Green Ridgewood Funds - Electric Leaf Blower

Conversation around Green Ridgewood funds and how to best use it. Pam Perron brought up the idea to purchase an electric leaf blower to gift to the village as a trial. Cost would be around \$200*.

Additional idea by Jill F. to gift it to the library for their loan program.

Pam will follow up with Nancy (example from Glen Rock)

Idea discussed: Do we take a park and have it be the Pilot/ Test Areas for “Green Initiatives”. No pesticides, use electric equipment, etc. Use this pilot to understand Budget and manpower implications and see how the area reacts. For example: Citizens Park, area around Stable, etc.

13. Field Trips:

Ridgewood Water, **01/21** 9am-12pm. Various issues including PFAS will be discussed. Jill Fasano to organize with Rich Calbi.

Meeting point at the library parking lot and walk over to the new building on N. Maple.

Leaf composting facility trip still TBD

14. Bergen Hub Meetings

Next Bergen Hub Meeting is Jan 30th at the Glen Rock arboretum

April’s meeting will take place in Ridgewood (April 24th)

Pam to reserve the Senior Lounge 7-9pm.

Green Team member should be in attendance

15. February Speaker

Deer and Ticks conversation with the health department.

Recommendation and alignment to hold it as an educational public forum. Potentially in May at the library or Youth Lounge at Village Hall.

Other

- Sustainability agenda at the library. Mike F. is connecting with them to have a library series (education programs, books, events, etc)
- Tentative dates were sent for Green Ridgewood meetings. An additional one will take place on March 23rd prior to Earth Day festival.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9th, Ridgewood Stable

Minutes submitted by Yvone Nava