

GREEN RIDGEWOOD MINUTES

January 11, 2024 7:30-9:30 PM

RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, SENIOR LOUNGE

Administration

1. Welcome and Attendee Introductions
2. Approve December 7 meeting minutes. Justin M. moved to approve, Frank second.
Approved for website

Updates/Discussion/Strategy

3. Chair Report and Green Ridgewood Committee Membership - David
 - Welcome to our two new Green Team members
 - No vacancies on Green Ridgewood or Green Team
4. Village Council Liaison Report – Pam
 - 1st mtg of the year last night
 - Shared service agreement for removal of trees on county roads. Village owns trees, County will pay to remove if on county roads for the next 5 years
 - Lead paint regulations for rental units - out for contract
 - Saddle River Road residents represented flooding concerns
 - DEP will not allow us to change water course to Lodi, Passaic
 - DEP does not allow dredging
 - We can de-snag/de-silt, and have been doing this. 200K grant from US Dept of Ag. De-snagged on both rivers where there was not private land. This has not been effective
 - Fire Dept can pump people out who are flooded
 - Pam & Paul went door-to-door, speaking to flooded residents
 - Flood acquisition Plan passed in 2021. This passed but it has not been executed. Village can buy out homes who repeatedly filed flood claims. There is no tax revenue for raised houses. If people do not carry flood insurance, they will not qualify. There are also aesthetic concerns if some houses are raised on a street while others are not (missing teeth). Qualified homes have not been formally notified
 - How does Blue Acres tie-into this? Pam is looking into this. Town gets fair full-market value reimbursement for raised house
 - Can Grayden be used as a retention pond?
5. Floods of Dec. 17/18, 2023 & January 9/10, 2024
 - 20-point plan to be presented to Village Manager
6. Daffodil Festival/Earth Day Fair – April 21, 2024 (11-230)– David/Pam (5-10 minutes)
 - Committee meeting next week to discuss raising funds

- Funders will be asked what sustainability initiatives they have, no one will be turned away. This is raising awareness. Consulting will be offered to those who are interested
 - More Green Ridgewood volunteers are needed. Daytime availability is necessary
 - Theme is The Three Bs: Bicycles, Bees, Batteries
7. School Activities – Miles/Sofia/Vivian (5 minutes)
- Open call for poster contest, not identifying 1st/2nd/3rd place per school
 - Pam speaking to RHS Green Club next week
 - Sustainability Day is TBC in April 12 or April 19
 - Long term sustainability projects being pitched now. Potential sustainability project topics include: bike lane advocacy, garden at Stevens, install EV chargers at RHS, tree inventory, min. liquids in recyclables, min. energy consumption (leaving too many lights on over the weekend)
8. Collaboration with Columbia University: Plan and Priorities – Alina (10-15 minutes)
- 5 priorities for Columbia Students (SIPA)
 - resilience & flood planning
 - comprehensive 3-year decarbonization plan with short-term & long-term goals
 - sustainability roadmap with actions, accountabilities, responsibilities & KPIs
 - comparative analysis of environmental ordinances/initiatives in similar towns in NJ (Montclair, Princeton, Maplewood)
 - guidance on financial mechanisms to implement sustainability projects
 - We were voted #1 project to work on
 - 10-12 students. This is their Capstone project
 - Advisor: Kathleen Callahan
 - Energy usage per Sustainable Jersey & carbon footprint (GHG calculator)
9. Climate Fresk – January 30 (6:30-9:30) RSVP needed - David (5 minutes)
- Accept/Reject Outlook meeting invite circulated by Beth. RSVP requested this week
10. Bergen Hub and County Outreach – David (2-3 minutes)
- Resilience & Climate Change subcommittee lunching at the next Hub meeting
 - Next meeting hosted by Waldwick on Jan. 29 @7pm
11. Planning Board/Master Plan Update – Pam/David (2-3 minutes)
- 1st meeting is next Tuesday
 - Pam & David reappointed
 - Richard is the new chair
12. Meeting with Sustainable NJ re: Data & Community Energy Planning Grant (5 min) - see Beth PPT
13. Subcommittee Report Outs (40 minutes)
- Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater – Joan/George/David
 - Overview of draft Ideation Exec Summary to be shared with Keith/Chris next week
 - 100-year floods happening with more frequency

- Multiple, creative solutions needed
 - HHK Brook & Saddle River addressed in plan
 - Establish a stormwater resiliency plan: decrease runoff hitting flood zones, improve quality of runoff, increase temp. water storage capacity, restore flood plains, move water out of flood zones faster, expand water capacity near flood zones
 - 20 ideas raised - evaluate risk priority, econ impact, environmental considerations, cost avoidance/savings
 - Critical keys to success noted
 - Appendix: How do we engage with other communities? What homes are affected?
- Communications (Newsletter) – Caitlin not present
 - Green Building & Sustainability – Beth defer update to Feb. meeting
 - Resource Management – Justin M. Lakewood Recycling Center possible tour. Justin working with Sean to organize
 - Green Team Update (Sustainable NJ) – Committee Member Update. No updates
 - Finance – Pam/Justin J no updates

Future Events (5 minutes)

14. Climate Fresk – Tuesday, Jan. 30 (6:30-9:30)
15. Potential Field Trips: Recycling Center/MRF; Sewage Treatment Plant
16. Future Meeting Dates 2024: January 30, February 15, March 7, April 4, April 21 Earth Day (11-2:30 PM with prior set-up), May 2, June 6

Other

17. Other/New Business

01/11/2024 Attendance:

Green Ridgewood

David Refkin – present
Beth Gould Creller – present
Yvone Nava – work emergency
Justin Jonsson - sick
Caitlin O'Leary - not present
Nurhan Ezik – present
Justin Manger – present
Sophia Florida – sick
Vivian Ewell, Student Liaison – school conflict
Pamela Perron, Village Council Representative
Saurabh Dani, Board of Education Representative – not present
Frank Mortimer, Parks & Recreation Conservation Board Representative – present
Jill Fasano, Village Staff Member – present

Green Team

Mike Faherty – business travel
Adam Peterseil – present
Joan Hubertus – present
Alina Mordkovich – sick
Luly Melarti – present
Manpreet Tyagi – present
Derek White – present
Pamela Perron, Village Council Representative – present
Chris Rutishauser, Village Staff Member – not present
Sofia Morino, Student Liaison – school conflict