

Minutes of GREEN RIDGEWOOD MEETING
March 2nd, 2023, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Ridgewood Stable, Lower Level

Attendees: David Refkin, Justin Manger, Yvone Nava, Beth Creller, Pam Perron, Jill Fasano, Tessa Florida, Miles Luo, Frank Mortimer, Bob Upton, Luly Melarti, George Wolfson, Carolyn Jacoby, Sofia Florida, Sonia Berman, Walter _____

Administration

1. Welcome + Introductions, David

2. Approved Minutes, David

- Voted to approve Feb 2023 minutes

3. Chair Report, David

- Appreciation for Sustainable Jersey Submission by Green Team
- Focus on Earth Day
- Updates from each sub-committee

4. Village Council, Pam

- Suggestion to increase Green Ridgewood by 2 more member. Vote to happen on 03/08/23.
- Schedler park controversy continues. More waiting and questioning.
- No Mow May – consensus reached, vote on 03/08/23. (Find list of other towns that have done it)
 - Communication Plan: Facebook, IG and Website
 - Front Page on the Village Website
 - Landscape table for Earth Day “No Mow May”
 - Display in the library & **sign** pickup at a TBD date (registration needed)
 - Parks and Rec is also promoting.
 - POS advertisement in local businesses.
 - Garden Centers
 - Add it to the Ridgewood eNews and add to school Community Events.
 - “No Mow May” website is not live, meeting with Dylan. FAQs needed.
 - Parks department has not decided which parts of parks will participate

5. Earth Day & Daffodil Festival - Bob

- Importance of supporting the event and committee as it is the main source of revenue for Green Ridgewood.
- The theme relates to the master plan and call to action to promote and address the relevant topics: Project 1,000 Acres, Leaf Blowers, EAGER, EV's, Ticks &/or deer, Green Team/Sustainable Jersey, Resiliency/Storm water/Flood Mitigation, Recycling/Styrofoam.

- Feedback to prioritize and focus on only three. Potential suggestions: No Mow May, 1000 acres, Flooding (storm drain), leaf blowers.
- Give away of native wild flower packets, honey.
- Give away of a composter idea.
- High School to organize the Kahoot @Miles & Sofia M. Trivia connected to Master Plan topics to drive interest on the Master Plan.
- Flyer and Vendor sign up sheet was sent by Pam. Promote the event in your circles and try to get additional vendors.
- Ridgewood Water will be present too.
- Idea to have a passport for the kids to get it stamped at each table.
- Earth Day Sub-committee: Tuesday March 7th at 8pm via zoom (Dave to send link)

6. School Projects - Miles/Tessa/Beth

- Sommerville and Willard requested that we come speak about recycling
 - Maya Grant is making an educational recycling video for the high school that could potentially also be distributed.
 - Miles will ask Maya if she could go to the schools as well
 - Pam will reach out to Johanna.
- RHS Update
 - Trees grant update. Trees has been purchased and planting will take place on April 13th.
 - Color Bins have been placed around the high school and students are reacting and shifting behavior towards recycling.
- April 14 will be RHS Earth Day celebration. Considering various ideas:
 - Garbage pickup on campus at the creek
 - Trash audit demo
 - Sustainable life hacks for college freshman
 - Participate in Village Earth Day – booth topic TBC

7. No Mow May & Green Team- Sustainable New Jersey Application – Mike/Frank M.

- Ridgewood is a designated Bee City USA (Frank). Importance of pollinators, continued education
- Aligns with two goals in Master Plan
- Earns two Sustainable Jersey points
- Can we encourage a new aesthetic of wilder lawns?
- Nancy/Katie/Christina (Parks Dept) are supportive
- 10 town park properties will have a section for No Mow May
- Signup available with QR code
- Activities for kids in the parks observing No Mow May
- Nomowmayridgewood.org – to register property. Must register, so you cannot get dinged for having lawn more than 10 in. high
- Signs can be printed & laminated at The Stable
- Purchase sign stakes at Home Depot. Sign placement can't be in right of way
- We can register people at Earth Day & distribute the signs

- Additional locations to signup/collect signs can be The Stable & the Library
- Add Green RW logo to the sign
- Add No Mow May to Project 1000 Acres website/Green Ridgewood website
- Ridgewood Living will feature an article on No Mow May

8. Ridgewood Planning Board – Pam/David

Recommendation to have formal communication to the Planning Board post Green Ridgewood Meetings to formalize our progress.

9. Sub-Committee Structure – Team Members

a. Sustainable New Jersey (Green Team), Grants Applications:

Recommendation to activities to be combined with Green Ridgewood in one meeting.

Seek more opportunities for grants and keep the connection with Sustainable Jersey.

Mike to map out the overlap of SJ and the Master Plan and share to the group.

New focus to learn more about Grants.

Three vacancies for Green Ridgewood, spread the word.

b. Communication (Caitlin)

Ways to promote Earth Day event (hashtags for example)

Facebook admins updated and looking to pre-schedule posts

Pay to promote Earth Day event and see if we can tag businesses (like the sponsors of Earth Day)

Recommendation to promote things as “Trivia”

Promote event in “Patch” in the area.

Facebook and Instagram are linked

Link email to Instagram

c. Resource Management (Justin)

R1. Recycling efforts to be boosted by communications pillar.

Looking at Bins with Shaun.

Looking into public Recycling bins downtown.

Make pitch to Parks Department and bring it to the village council ASAP as they are getting ready to purchase new Trash Cans.

d. Green Building & Sustainability (Beth)

Meeting on March 18th at noon.

e. Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater (David)

Review Storm Water Management Plan

Reach out about specifics on flood zones

Role of Bergen County in this topic.

Office of Emergency Management – meeting coming up early March

Next Zoom Meeting @ 7pm March 13th

10. Green Ridgewood Funds.

Vote to approve the below use of Green Ridgewood not to exceed \$2,000

- Earth Day large giveaways (leaf blower, composter, rain barrel) around \$1,000
- Earth Day small giveaways and swag for the event \$500
- Buy a leaf blower for the library for their “borrow” program

Justin motioned and Caitlin second. All in favor

Next Meeting: April 13thnd@ Ridgewood Stable

Special Meeting: March 23rd to discuss planning for Earth Day

Minutes submitted by Yvone Nava