

GREEN RIDGEWOOD AGENDA

April 4, 2024, 7:30-9:30 PM

RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, SENIOR LOUNGE

Administration

1. Welcome and Attendee Introductions

Green Ridgewood:

David Refkin – Chair

Beth Gould Creller – Vice Chair

Yvone Nava

Justin Jonsson

Nurhan Ezik

Justin Manger

Sophia Florida

Vivian Ewell, Student Liaison

Pamela Perron, Village Council Liaison

Saurabh Dani, Board of Education Liaison

Frank Mortimer, Parks & Recreation Liaison

Jill Fasano, Village Staff Member

Green Team

Mike Faherty – Chair

Joan Hubertus

Luly Melarti

Manpreet Tyagi

Sofia Morino, Student Liaison

Guests:

Peter Jerdee

Bill Armbruster

Susan Ruane

2. Approve March 7, 2024, meeting minutes.

Minutes approved.

Updates/Discussion/Strategy

3. Chair Report, Green Ridgewood Activities since last meeting (David)
Sophia Florida will resign as of June 1st from Green Ridgewood as she is participating in an important internship.
Caitlin O'Leary is resigning at a TBD date.
Pam will follow up with the process to execute these resignations.

4. Village Council Liaison Report (Pam)

Ridgewood Living magazine contains an article about the Tree Shade commission and the “Adopt a Sapling” program. Another important article about the RHS Green club work. Green Ridgewood will be featured in a future issue.

The Shade Tree commission is running a “big tree” initiative. The biggest tree is on Hawthorne Ave., and everyone is encouraged to visit.

Asking the NJ legislature to allocate funds \$12M to help mitigate the cost of the PFOS facility development.

The Army Corp of Engineers met with the Village manager and talked about the flooding of the two rivers (HHKB and Saddle River), and they discussed a long-term approach as well as short term efforts including a detailed study of the problem. Their observation is to start both in tandem and the ACoE will come back to us with a set of recommendations (potential Forum to be held in June).

At the village council Slow Mow May was discussed, and it will be voted on April 10th.

5. Climate Fresk –Next Steps/Suggestions on Invitees (David)

There will be another Climate Fresk on May 15th (tentative). Invitations will go out to department heads, village council, planning board and advisory committees, Ridgewood Water, etc. With the goal to also train 2-3 Green Ridgewood team members to continue the roll out in town in the Fall.

6. Collaboration with Columbia University: Status Report – (David)

a. Project Status

Pam and David went to Columbia University to attend one of their presentations. The students are finishing their research and are doing an internal presentation on April 17th.

b. Expected Major Recommendations

They have put together a series of recommendations around flooding, decarbonization and other important topics. They are creating a sustainability roadmap for the final presentation with some key focused proposals to VC.

c. May 1 Presentation to VC.

7. Bergen Hub and County Outreach –(David) Attended the Bergen County Commissioners meeting on March 20 and spoke during the public comments period.

Request was made for elevated leadership by the County on a range of flooding issues that impact virtually every community in Bergen. Reaction was “tepid” from the commissioners. The Bergen Hub has established a Resilience/Climate subcommittee which David is chairing. Also, efforts made to connects with NJ Assemblywoman Lisa Swain (Chair of Appropriations Cmte.) to accelerate the focus on this topic.

8. School Activities/Sustainability Day – Miles/Vivian/Sofia

Sustainability activities: garbage audit by sorting through garbage post lunch.

Sustainable Jersey approached the RHS GR to make a video and get \$2.5K. The main topics are trees and flooding.

April 19th Sustainability Day: large participation from students with multiple tables and topics. Pam and Yvone are attending.

9. Daffodil Fair/Earth Day Fair – April 21

- a. Major Themes, Logistics, Displays, Art Posters, Activities, Fund Raising, Shirts, etc. (All)
 - Flooding and decarbonization
 - Shirts will be ready by Friday 19th.
 - Rutgers interactive way for children to understand rainwater pollution.
- b. Plan for April 21
 - 8am setup. Frank and George will support.
 - Mike is bringing a GR tent and Nurhan is bringing a second tent.
 - Nurhan (2), George (1), Yvone (1) to bring tables.
 - Mike will bring easels.
 - Request to arrive by 10:30am (earlier if you are bringing tables or tents)
- c. 1,000 Acres/Slow Mow May, etc. @Mike
 - Tentative: urban runoff table, seed bombs

10. Subcommittee Report Outs (30 minutes)

- a. Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater – Joan/Sophia/David
 - i. Stormwater Ordinance (15 Minutes)

Presented (Joan, Pam, and David) five main recommendations for key definitions to Engineering Dept. There was reasonable interest in the recommendations and the approach.

Due to the complexity of the topic, to date there was not a heightened focus on the topic. There will be a second meeting on April 11th to go deeper into the ordinance draft that will also include the Village Manager and Mayor. This is an opportunity for Ridgewood to lead the way on the topic in the state of NJ and help address our flooding issues.
- b. Communications (Newsletter)- Justin M.

Shout out to Justin for his efforts to publish the newsletter in a timely manner and it has completed with great content and distribution.

Next newsletter to cover Daffodil Festival, sustainability day at the high school, Columbia students report, etc.
- c. Green Building & Sustainability – Beth

They had a meeting to follow up on Climate Fresk. Decision to wait for Columbia Students final report.
- d. Green Team Update (Sustainable NJ)– Committee Member Update – Grant Application from Sustainable NJ (Data).

As per last meeting, it was decided to not submit in 2024 and the work continues across the different streams. Next submission will be in 2025.

e. Finance – Budgeting for 2024 – Justin J

Justin and David will do budget work post Daffodil Festival.

Sustainable Jersey is having a conference. David wants to attend and is seeking approval for reimbursement. Motion to approve no more than \$200 (for 3 people) on May 3rd. All in favor, approved.

Future Events (5 minutes)

11. Columbia Students Presentation to Village Council – May 1, 2024
12. Climate Fresk for Village Council, Planning Board, BOE, others – early -mid May
13. Potential Field Trips: Recycling Center/MRF; Sewage Treatment Plant, potential meeting at James Ross House.
14. Future Meeting Dates 2024: April 21 Earth Day (11-2:30 PM with prior set-up), May 2, June 6, July 11, August TBD, September 12, October 10

Other

15. Proposal to have a joint meeting with Parks and Rec conservation board in the fall. David to follow up with Frank – likely date in October.