

# GREEN RIDGEWOOD MINUTES

March 7, 2024, 7:30-9:30 PM

RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, SENIOR LOUNGE

## Administration

1. Attendees: Yvone Nava (GR), Pam Perron (GR – Village Council Liaison) Sofia Morino (RHS GT Liaison), Vivian Ewell (RHS GR Liaison), Justin Jonsson (GR), David Refkin (GR-Chair), Frank Mortimer (PRC GR Liaison), Jill Fasano (GR, Village Liaison), Joan Hubertus (GT), Manpreet Tyapi (GT), Madelyn Grassi (Guest), Luly Melarti ) GT), Beth Gould Creller (GR-Vice Chair), George Wolfson (guest), Justin Manger (GR), Walter Rothaug (guest), Adam Peterseil (GT), Nurhan Ezik (GR), Miles Luo (guest - RHS), Susan Ruane (Guest).
2. Approved February 15, 2024, meeting minutes.  
Revisions to minutes (Spelling corrections submitted)

## Updates/Discussion/Strategy

3. Chair Report, Green Ridgewood Activities since last meeting (David)  
Full steam ahead planning for Daffodil Festival/Earth Day Fair and will cover the agenda topics and updates laid out below.
4. Climate Fresk –, Next Steps – David  
Dave spoke with Alexis Milcent, US lead for Climate Fresk, to schedule another Climate Fresk with other key decision makers in the village, likely in early-mid May, with the goal to educate as many relevant stakeholders as possible about climate change to drive more local actions. Suggestion to send a representative from: Open space, Parks & Rec, Village council members, etc.  
Michael F., Beth CG and potentially David R. will become facilitators in the future to animate this type of workshops on a quarterly basis for Ridgewood residents.
5. Collaboration with Columbia University: Status Report – Alina (10-15 minutes)
  - a. Review Progress to Date, Feb. 17 tour.  
Tour of the town, downtown, flood fields, bridges, etc.  
Visited Ho-Ho-Kus to explore options to divert the HHK brook based on Columbia Earth Science professor's recommendation (not feasible, but potential for Saddle River).  
Visited solar panels and EV facilities.  
They have conducted many interviews. Missing Sourabh, Pam and the Ridgewood School Superintendent.
  - b. March 5 Report – Students prepared 35-page status report for GR review with focus on Flooding and Decarbonization. Discussion by GR members on

flooding solutions related to permeable pavement and green infrastructure solutions.

- c. Next steps: Project completion by April 17<sup>th</sup> and May 1 presentation to Village Council. Regular interaction with Alina and David
6. Bergen Hub and County Outreach – New Bergen Hub Resilience/Climate Cmte established by Bergen Hub based on GR suggestion. The group will meet prior to the next BH meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> (Rutherford).  
David spoke to Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur about flooding, our resiliency initiatives, and the need for the County to play a leadership role. So far little traction or support from the County. We are requesting support from the Village Manager and Pam and plan to attend Bergen County Commissioners Mtg.
7. Planning Board – Master Plan – Pam/David (2 minutes)  
Sub Committee of the planning board has been meeting in absence of Planning Board official meetings and some progress has been made on the 214 recommendations – continuing effort.
8. Village Council Presentation– Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (David- 2 minutes)  
Very successful presentation to Council by David R. with an overview of Green Ridgewood and Green Team’s mission, initiatives, and progress to date. High-level of interest from VC members.
9. Village Council Liaison Report – Pam (10 minutes)  
Last VCM talked about new lighting at Vets field (currently portable and diesel powered). There is a proposal for new lighting similar to Maple field (LED, no noise and permanent) Awarding a contract to buy a new EV – Ford F-150 Lightning recycling truck.  
Green Ridgewood attended Super Science Saturday at RHS (Pam P. and George W.). Got the opportunity to advertise Daffodil Festival, /Earth Day Fair and engaged other sustainability vendors and promote Green Ridgewood initiatives.  
Tree protection ordinance update. DEP approval will be needed. More follow-up conversations to take place.  
Meeting with Village Manager to review the Community facilities section of the Master Plan.
10. School Activities/Sustainability Day – Miles/Vivian/Sophia (5 minutes)  
Sustainability Day (April 19<sup>th</sup>) update: working with teachers and students for the booth topics and setup. Stations examples: vegan diet, recyclability, waste, carpooling, etc.  
Still working on a topic for Earth Day Festival.  
Received an email from Sustainable Jersey regarding their tree planting program last year and there is an opportunity to receive a grant. Working on a video to highlight the program.  
Miles submitted a \$32K grant with supporting documentation from Green Ridgewood (Columbia University Status Report).

11. Daffodil Festival/Earth Day Fair – April 21, 2024 –

- a. Logistics, Displays, Activities, Fund Raising -David/Pam/All (10-15 min.)  
David, Pam, and Manpreet visited business and restaurants to sign up vendors.

Storms & Flooding: show maps and make connection with Rain Gardens.

Reach out to Rutgers contact to see if they can attend Festival.

Potential to do a demo live at our booth.

Idea to invite Permeable pavers manufacturers (Justin M. will take the follow up)

Create an idea board (similar to Climate Fresk)

- b. Art Posters (BCG organizing): will connect with Nancy Bigos to find a location to store them. Will need funds for prizes (follow up with J. Johnson from World Flats). Also considering displaying in empty store fronts. Posters due April 5<sup>th</sup>.

- c. 1,000 Acres/Slow Mow May, etc. – Will provide an update in the next meeting on Slow Mow May.

12. Subcommittee Report Outs (20-30 minutes)

- a. Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater – Joan/Sophia/David

- a. Stormwater Ordinance (10 Minutes): GR suggestions to enhance ordinance to be presented at meeting with Village Manager, Mayor, and Engineering (the Planning board has seen the original proposal from Engineering). GR Proposing a major upgrade from DEP minimal recommended approach. This is a significant change that addresses the flooding issues.

- b. Communications (Newsletter)- Justin M. (5 minutes)

Newsletter update. New communications person (Carol) at the Village on board. Justin will lead the efforts to publish the first issue.

Distribution scope is still in the works. Aiming to publish it in March.

- c. Green Building & Sustainability – Beth

Meeting on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> via zoom.

- d. Green Team Update (Sustainable NJ)– Committee Member Update – Potential Filing in 2024? (5-10 minutes)

Recommendation from Green team to skip this year's submission. This does not mean they do not continue working on the initiatives that will help us achieve silver status. Green Ridgewood supports the Green Team's recommendation.

- e. Finance – Budgeting for 2024 – Justin J/Pam.

Justin Johnson working on the accounting with Bob U. to review and align on the balance. Next step start budgeting for a few upcoming expenses: t-shirts, giveaways, prizes, etc.

**Future Events (5 minutes)**

13. Columbia Students Presentation to Village Council – May 1, 2024
14. Climate Fresk for Village Council, Planning Board, BOE, others – early/mid-May
15. Potential Field Trips: Recycling Center/MRF; Sewage Treatment Plant
16. Future Meeting Dates 2024: April 4, April 21 Earth Day (11-2:30 PM with prior set-up), May 2, June 6, July 11.

**Other**

17. Other/New Business