

Minutes – Green Ridgewood Meeting – July 11, 2024, Senior Lounge, Village Hall

Attendees (GR and GT members): David Refkin, Pamela Perron, Justin Jonsson, Joan Hubertus, Derek White, Lourdes Melarti,, Justin Manger, Sofia Morino
Guests: Carolyn Jacoby, Walter Routhaug, Peter Jerdee, Bill Armbruster, Miles Luo,

Chair intro notes:

1. Model Enhanced Stormwater ordinance approved by VC
2. Army Corps of Engineers were here. See their document.

Membership update:

1. Joan Hubertus is the newest member of Green Ridgewood.
2. Opening for Green Team Student liaison, Green Team Member and for Green Ridgewood

Stormwater Ordinance Approval, Joan:

1. Was presented to the Village Council on June 26th.
2. <https://www.ridgewoodnj.net/DocumentCenter/View/3722/Ordinance-No-4006-Stormwater-Management---July-16-2024-PDF>
3. Rutherford and Glen Rock are also interested in using our enhanced stormwater ordinance in their towns.

Village Council Liaison Report Pam:

1. Town Garage. \$1,447,000 valuation by town judge. Village negotiating cleanup.
2. Tree at corner of N Monroe and Morningside nominated for Big Tree Program.
3. The council is suggesting creating a residential flood advisory committee, composed of seven residents who have been flooded, representing the various areas & types of flooding. (2 from Hohokus brook, 2 Saddlebrook river, 2 stormwater, 1 Green Ridgewood)
 - a. The mission would be to advise council and propose solutions.

Bergen Hub & County Outreach notes - David

1. Creating a steering committee so there's structure & planning.
2. Have put together an extensive presentation on all the Saddle River issues and trying to get that onto the right desks. Active discussions with Rochelle Park and Saddle Brook on their flooding concerns.

Climate Fresk:

1. It'd be good to get younger people involved. Can it be condensed?
 - a. Climate Fresk committed to its 3-hour program.
2. If we host it locally, we'd need to train as moderators.
 - a. Is there sufficient interest? Probably not.

- b. Instead, might we build our own hour-long event that helps highlight people's ecological impacts? What would it do for Green Ridgewood? This is a very expensive undertaking.
3. Putting Climate Fresk aside, can we find another way to reach high schoolers?
 - a. <https://education.minecraft.net/en-us/schools-reinventing-cities>
 - b. Perhaps a schools subcommittee makes sense for us.
 - i. <https://education.minecraft.net/en-us/schools-reinventing-cities>

Army Corps of Engineers meeting:

1. June 17 was a hopeful meeting, and they'll deliver an analysis of short- and long-term solutions.
2. Their projects typically have pretty long-time horizons (20+ years not uncommon).
3. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection was also present.
4. There'll be further discussions on how Ridgewood, and Green Ridgewood, interact w/ Army Corps of Engineers.

Columbia Recommendations Follow-up: Measurements:

1. We have provided specific details to the Village Manager on what data we need to collect.
2. Army Corps of Engineers' focus is on the waterways, not stormwater.
3. How do we enumerate and define the risks we're trying to address?
4. What is the impact of flooding? What resources do we currently allocate to flood management or aftermath?

Ad-hoc discussion on buses:

1. We need more data on school bussing.
2. How many homes are currently eligible but don't use them?

Rain barrels (Columbia Students Short-Term Flooding Recommendation per Sustainability Roadmap):

1. Backyard Living may supply 50gal barrels as part of some village initiative.
2. Green Ridgewood will help educate and could even help deploy them.
3. Are these effective enough for their potential cost & nuisance?

School update:

1. High School's new rain barrel is working well.
2. Rain gardens - High School students having issues w/ plant procurement. Finally found a vendor, but it might be too late now as it's too hot and dry. GR providing 50% of need funding
3. Wildflower meadow has gotten great reception.
 - a. Will try to expand that one or create new ones.
4. Alums notified BoE about lighting and notified Miles Luo about how they'd submitted recommendations and gotten no traction.

Subcommittee - Communications:

1. Newsletter will have F-150 Lightning, Earth Day, Beth Creller profile, Climate Fresk, Columbia Students, Slow Mow May, Earth Day Word Cloud with flooding focus.
2. We had an article in Ridgewood Living
3. Be sure to send press mentions to Justin Manger for inclusion on the website.

Subcommittee - Green Building & Sustainability:

1. Many ideas on what we can accomplish *this year*.
 - a. Smaller:
 - increase food scrap program,
 - pursue potential tax credits for residents implementing sustainability initiatives that are good for the homeowner and the town,
 - encourage energy audits,
 - school trash audits,
 - b. Larger longer-term:
 - Others not discussed today.
2. What options are there to buy cleaner energy?
 - a. Pam reports that the renewable energy market is terrible.
3. Perhaps a forum on particular topics, which we host at the library.
 - a. Rotating monthly topic

Subcommittee - Resource Management

1. Need to better understand state & federal requirements.
2. Need to better understand what we recycle already.
3. Can we refocus on organics and spend less on plastics which are collected but not recycled?
4. David to reach out to others on this subcommittee and Sean Hamlin, our Recycling Coordinator.

Subcommittee - Green Team

1. Our current plan is that we'll apply for Silver in 2025.

Subcommittee - Finance

1. Met with Treasurer to understand our finances, debits & credits.

Subcommittee Changes:

1. Joan will chair Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater Subcommittee
2. Justin has moved to Communications.
3. Resource Management is now empty, and David will fill in.
4. Officially Sofia Morino's last meeting! She will be missed. Thank you, Sofia, for your passion and commitment to Ridgewood.

ACTIONS:

1. Everyone please review the subcommittees and let David know what subcommittees you'd like to serve on.

Any Other Business:

1. Our aquifers being this low is alarming.