

GREEN RIDGEWOOD - MINUTES

June 6, 2024, 7:30-9:30 PM

RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, SENIOR LOUNGE

Administration

1. Welcome and Attendee Introductions
2. Approve May 2 meeting minutes. Minutes Approved.

Updates/Discussion/Strategy

3. Chair Report, Green Ridgewood Highlights since last meeting (David)
It's been a busy month. Revised agenda to include Schedler discussion.
4. Village Council Liaison Report (Pam) – 10 minutes
Schedler: Testing company report at last night's VC meeting on 4 contaminants that they sampled and sent to a lab in the berm.
The first three contaminants marginally exceed the standards. Benzopyran requires more testing and attention for remediation actions (\$350K bonded). Because of the contamination, the application to the historic office will be paused.

Ridgewood Water: bonded for two more PFOS removal facilities. Also installed new filters in schools.
Army Corp of Engineers are coming to do a presentation on June 17th at 7:30pm @ Village Hall.
Bike lanes to be painted to take advantage of the paving and construction that is currently going on.
5. Storm Water Ordinance (Joan/Pam) – 10 minutes
Joan presented the storm water ordinance to the village council. We proposed making the changes mentioned below and we are waiting for the vote.
Major development was defined as area of disturbance negotiated down to half an acre. Also regulated that a disturbance of 200 Sq feet would need to double the quantity of water captured from the previous standard.
Green infrastructure will be required to get a yearly permit. In the case where it's created to offset impervious surface
Idea to partner with a professor in Rutgers to train us in Rain Gardens. Train the trainer - potential that we can work to replicate.

6. Schedler Berm Contamination (Pam/David) – 10 minutes
Unknown scope of the testing. At the moment, we don't have details of the full report, only headlines highlighting some contaminants appearing to be exceeding standards. On Saturday June 8th there is an open house from 11am-2pm.
7. Climate Fresk –May 15th (David) – 5 minutes
Eighteen people attended. Not everyone invited joined, but we did have people from Bergen County that work for County Exec Tedesco. Also, people from the Planning Board and some Village Council members (Weitz, Vagianos, and Perron). Great educational experience.
Considering opening it up to residents, we need at least two more GR members to get trained. Will send a survey to our distribution list.
Raising questions about Climate Fresk for students or potentially the teachers.
8. Bergen Hub and County Outreach (David)– 5 minutes
 - a. Steering Committee
Developing a Steering Committee to gain momentum and get more organized and be more action oriented.
 - b. Resilience Sub committee
David is chairing this sub-committee with the idea of having more cross-town support and amplifying our messaging about actions needed for resiliency.
9. School Activities including new rain gardens (Students, Miles) – 10 minutes.
RHS green team planted wildflowers and have grown very nicely (replacing grass area)
Environmental science projects around sustainability: rain gardens and bike paths are things being implemented.
10. Daffodil Fair/Earth Day Fair – 2025 (David) – 5 minutes
 - a. Steering Cmte. Review
Review of this year's festival. April 27th, 2025, with the same duration as this year.
 - b. NJ Sustainable Business Registry
With the Thank You letters that were sent out, we encourage the business to look at the NJ Sustainable Business Registry.
 - c. Slow Mow May - 2025 (Frank)
179 people signed up (less than last year when we had over 300).
11. Columbia Follow-up – Measurement Tools for Village (Joan/Alina) – 15 minutes
 - a. Rain Barrels (Frank)
Meeting with Keith to talk about the recommendations from the Columbia students report.

The next topic to address is what we want and need to measure and the path to obtain the data and align in the right way to calculate. Will collaborate with Green Team to ensure the measurements are consistent with the requirements of Sustainable Jersey.

12. Subcommittee Report Outs (15 minutes) – primarily covered above.
 - a. Review Committee assignments - All
 - b. Resilience, Flooding and Stormwater – David/Pam/Joan
 - c. Communications (Newsletter)- Justin M.
Second newsletter: Earth Day, slow mow may, Columbia students' partnerships, RHS rain gardens, Climate Fresk, etc.
 - d. Green Building & Sustainability
 - i. Community Energy Planning Grant - David
 - e. Green Team Update/Sustainable NJ Conference– Committee Member Update
 - f. Finance – Expenses 2024 – Justin J – met with Bob Rooney, Ridgewood CFO to understand our account activity and balance. Will report data at the next meeting.

Future Events (5 minutes)

13. Army Corps of Engineers Forum (June 17) – Village Hall
14. Future Meeting Dates 2024: July 11, August 1 (informal – DR home) September 12, October 10, October 22 (Joint meeting with Parks and Recreation), November 7, December 5
15. Other/New Business