

**BOROUGH OF ROCKAWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Rockaway, County of Morris, State of New Jersey was held at the Community Center, 21 Union Street, Rockaway, New Jersey.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sylvia Banbor (SB)
Jean Blohm (JB)
Rob Grow (RG)
Kathy Haake (KH)
Kim Rose (KR)
Frank Cappuccio (FC)

ABSENT:

Joyce Freiermuth (JF)

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Open Public Meeting Statement read and the fire exits identified.

Jim and Geri Hurley were at the meeting, as well as Steve Vetrero, who lives in the Township and who frequently walks around Park Lake. Mr. Vetrero is a friend of Mr. Cappuccio and came to the meeting for information and to see if he could help with the Rain Garden project. Kristen Andrada of the AmeriCorpsNJ Watershed Ambassadors Program was also present and spoke to us about her projects and how we could help each other especially for river cleanups, observations and data collection. Kristen also advised us about a free Visual Assessment Training program on February 22, 2020 in Denville at the Town Hall.

The Borough Clerk advised Kathy Haake that Rob Smith spoke to someone at the county and learned that an engineer would be required to provide permits for the Rain Garden. This will be discussed at the Mayor & Council Meeting tomorrow.

There was a discussion about the cost of this project if engineering plans and permits would be required, since they are not covered by grants, and the time line increases dramatically. Mr. Hurley said that since the Rain Garden is in the wetlands, engineering plans and permits would be required. He suggested locating the Rain Garden in a different location. It was noted that the Environmental Commission can accept fundraising donations of the "in-kind" category. "This means that the project could accept direct donation items like plants, topsoil, seeds, small garden tools, etc. This allows to donor to purchase and donate the item directly for the project. It becomes complicated when accepting donations in cash/currency, checks, or other forms of electronic payment due to the accounting and tracking purchases for how the money was spent. Typically organizations that accept fundraising donations in cash/currency, check or electronic transfer have established accounts and are mostly of the IRS category 501c3 non-profit charitable organizations."

Sylvia Banbor said that originally the plan was for a Bioswale but after discussions with Carolle Huber the project was changed/downgraded to a Rain Garden which still filters the run off from storms and was under the impression that permits would not be required or at least minimized. Kathy Haake said that she would contact Chris at Rutgers to see if she can get some advice regarding a Rain Garden, DEP approvals, permits and regulations.

The next Environmental Commission Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2020. The minutes of November 13, 2019 were approved.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.
Minutes taken by Sylvia Banbor