

BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
HELD: MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012

PRESENT: Jerry DeCrosta, Chairman, Don Kretz, Marilyn Goldfisher, Bob LaViano, Henry Senger, Ron Yates, Warren Boardman, Council Representative

ABSENT: Al Kurpis, Planning Board Representative

PRESIDING: Chairman Jerry DeCrosta called the meeting to order at 6:40pm;
Commission Secretary Joy Convertini read the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICE: "Notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231 of the laws of 1975, has been given by posting a notice of the scheduled dates of all regular meetings of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Saddle River on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and in the office of the Borough Clerk and by emailing a notice thereof to the Ridgewood Newspapers and The Record on December 23, 2011."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the May 29, 2012 minutes by Henry Senger. Second by Jerry DeCrosta
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Dead Tree Issue: Bob LaViano prepared and distributed a report about his project involving the identification of dead or hazardous trees throughout the Borough. He travelled on the major roadways with Borough Engineer Martin Spence on May 31, 2012, surveying the eastern end of East Allendale Road, Woodcliff Lake Road, the north end of Chestnut Ridge Road and a section of East Saddle River Road to identify and mark trees with a white paint spray dot that need to be removed. He further stated that the majority of trees identified are Ash trees and Martin Spence suggested that there be a coordinated effort with the Borough DPW and Downes Tree Service. These trees should be taken down expediently in order to avoid hazardous conditions.

Chairman DeCrosta stated that it is also important to communicate with home owners that have these dangerous trees on their property and advise them to have them removed; Bob LaViano stated that Martin Spence plans to send letters to these residents.

Warren Boardman stated that the Mayor and Council requested to see a copy of this letter, which ultimately will be generated by the Saddle River Building Department. The disposition of this process will then need to be tracked and Martin Spence will be involved to insure its completion.

Dead trees on private property were also discussed and it was suggested that Landscape Architect Scott Levy get more involved during construction, to avoid any root destruction, drainage issues and soil management.

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Bob LaViano stated that it is extremely important that dead trees be replaced with hardwood trees such as Maples, Oaks and Elms to insure the bucolic nature of Saddle River.

Chairman DeCrosta stated that the Environmental Commission will be generating a newsletter in order to make residents aware of issues including debris, property owners along the Saddle River being prohibited from any dumping of landscape debris into the river, the use of organic fertilizer along the river, the maintenance of septic systems and the removal of dead trees on private property. He further stated that this will probably be included in the Borough Newsletter.

Ron Yates stated that he would like to work on the pond silting issues throughout the Borough. He would like to have an aerial photograph taken of the entire town in order to identify properties with ponds so the home owners can be contacted and any pond issues can be addressed.

Chairman DeCrosta stated that he is in receipt of a draft of the tree ordinance and this was discussed in detail at this time. He reiterated that the Mayor and Council's objective is to incorporate the parameters of the Tree City Designation in the final amended tree ordinance. Warren Boardman stated that it is important that the Environmental Commission review this for their comments and Chairman DeCrosta stated that he would email this to all members.

Ron Yates suggested that the downtown area along the Saddle River be cleaned up and addressed. Chairman DeCrosta stated that the river dredging project is progressing on schedule and they are now working adjacent to 255 East Saddle River Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary