

BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
HELD: TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2012

PRESENT: Marilyn Goldfisher, Bob LaViano, Henry Senger, Ron Yates, Warren Boardman, Council Representative

ABSENT: Jerry DeCrosta, Chairman, Don Kretz, Al Kurpis, Planning Board Representative

PRESIDING: Ron Yates 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 April 23, 2012 minutes by Henry Senger. Second by Marilyn Goldfisher
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Environmental Newsletter: Ron Yates stated that the Commission was in agreement that an Environmental Newsletter would be prudent and Henry Senger will be overseeing this project.

Formation of the Dead Tree Committee: Ron Yates stated that, rather than a Dead Tree Committee, he would rather see a Tree Board appointed in the Borough, which would be responsible for the dead tree issue throughout the Borough. Bob LaViano stated that he is going to work with Martin Spence and travel throughout the Borough identifying trees that are potentially hazardous and further stated that this issue should be included in the newsletter as well.

Warren Boardman stated that the Council has discussed this issue and wants this project to be done in a systematic fashion, identifying dead and dangerous trees on a street by street basis. He further stated that the tree ordinance will include the dead tree issue and is currently being worked on. This will also enable the Commission to pursue the Tree City designation in Saddle River.

Ron Yates stated that the Town of Millburn has a very concise tree ordinance that Saddle River could reference when amending the Borough’s current ordinance. Many

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property owners are not removing dead or dangerous trees as well as evasive trees, such as bamboo that grows rapidly and onto neighboring properties. Warren Boardman stated that this should also be part of the amended tree ordinance.

The Mayor and Council are currently drafting an ordinance in order to regulate schools and churches and Warren Boardman discussed this in detail at this time. He also reiterated that he would like a report regarding the location of specific trees in need of attention one week prior to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 18, 2012.

Marilyn Goldfisher stated that she feels that a letter should be sent to residents along the Saddle River reminding them that the dumping of any debris or landscape material into the river is prohibited.

Garbage and recycling in the Borough was discussed and Marilyn Goldfisher stated that the Borough could save money by reducing pickups to once per week. She also stated that residents should have a place to bring branches for chipping in the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS: Marilyn Goldfisher addressed the enforcement of closing dumpster lids throughout the Borough.

Bob LaViano stated that the Saddle River Grand project has caused neighboring ponds to be filled with silt.

Ron Yates stated that he feels it is a good idea for the Environmental Commission to develop a business plan in order to outline projects and goals moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary