

BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
HELD: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012 (rescheduled from Sept. 24, 2012)

PRESENT: Jerry DeCrosta, Chairman, Don Kretz, Marilyn Goldfisher,
Henry Senger, Ron Yates

ABSENT: Bob LaViano, Al Kurpis, Planning Board Representative
Warren Boardman, Council 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 June 25, 2012 minutes by Jerry DeCrosta Second by Henry Senger
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

New Tree Ordinance: A draft copy of the amended tree ordinance was distributed and discussed in detail at this time. Chairman DeCrosta stated that the requirements for the Tree City designation as well as all of the other criteria set forth by the Environmental Commission are included in this ordinance.

Chairman DeCrosta stated that he feels there is a need to address insuring that a CO is not given to a home owner until Borough Landscape Architect Scott Levy confirms that all work done on a property is exactly what is indicated on submitted site and landscape plans. He further stated that it is important to insure that a tree permit has been taken when any trees are being removed. He urged Commission members to call the Building Department and ask if permits were taken out when trees are being removed around town.

Private Ponds: Chairman DeCrosta stated that the ponds that are adjacent to the Saddle River Grand project are filled with silt and he distributed a map of all ponds that are affected. He further stated that the Saddle River Grand is going before the Planning Board on October 2, 2012 regarding street lighting and he plans to address this silting issue at that time. Water testing was also discussed and it was suggested that these ponds be tested at the Borough's expense.

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Dead Tree Update: Chairman DeCrosta stated this program is underway and will continue, again stressing the replacement of dead trees with similar hard wood trees around Saddle River. The amended tree ordinance was discussed again and the Commission was in agreement that it was more concise and would insure both the replacement of hardwood trees as well as the removal of hazardous trees.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman DeCrosta stated that he feels it is important to advise residents that live along the Saddle River that, now that the dredging project is almost complete, dumping of landscaping debris is strictly prohibited.

Commission Member Goldfisher stated that the two large hardwood trees were lost on the Waterford Gardens property as a result of the dredging project. She further stated that she would like to utilize money in the Environmental Commission budget to replace these trees.

The Commission continued the discussion regarding the dumping of debris into the Saddle River and it was decided that a letter would be sent from the Environmental Commission to all residents living along the river as well as posting this on the Borough website and publishing the letter in the Town Journal.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary