

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: APRIL 29, 2013**

PRESENT: Commission Members: Jerry DeCrosta, Chairman & Planning Board Rep., Marilyn Goldfisher, Don Kretz, Bob LaViano, Ron Yates, Al Kurpis, Council Representative

ABSENT: Commission Members: Henry Senger

PRESIDING: 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 20, 2012 and on the Borough website."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the March 25, 2013 minutes by Jerry DeCrosta. Seconded by Marilyn Goldfisher
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Newsletter Topics: Topics to be included as an insert in the May 15, 2013 Borough Newsletter were addressed. The following environmental issues will be addressed: property maintenance, the use of organic pesticides, the importance of maintaining the integrity of the banks of the Saddle River, and the importance of tree maintenance and removal of hazardous trees on private property. It will be two sided and will also provide information regarding household hazardous waste collections in Bergen County.

The depositing of dead fish in the Saddle River was also addressed as well as the Koi ponds in Waterford Gardens, which are located in the wetlands. Marilyn Goldfisher stated that they have been throwing dead Koi into the river and she has contacted NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and filed a police report to report this as it is a detriment to the ponds.

Bob LaViano suggested that the Environmental Commission submit a report monthly to the Mayor and Council to keep them informed of environmental issues that could have a potentially negative impact on Saddle River.

Ron Yates stated that he feels that the Waterford Garden property should be more carefully monitored in order to prevent continued environmental infractions.

Al Kurpis suggested that the Environmental Commission develop a Clean Green Pledge for landscapers to participate in, in order to encourage the use of safer pesticides. The residents will be given a proper lawn care guideline to discuss with their landscaper, stressing the importance of not contaminating the aquifer and the Saddle River as well as insuring the safety of children and pets. This information will be included in the newsletter and it will be posted on the Borough website as well.

Bob LaViano suggested including instructions on the disposal of prescription medication in the newsletter and it was determined that the date and time of a local drug take-back program would be investigated.

Al Kurpis stated that the Borough has received a grant in the amount of \$156,000 for the installation of a treescape on East Allendale Road. Marilyn Goldfisher cautioned that these trees not be planted too close to power lines. She further stated that the curbing on East Allendale Road is not in keeping with the historic nature of the downtown area.

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Ron Yates stated that East Allendale Road, from West Saddle River Road to the Route 17, is heavily littered with garbage and landscape debris and requires immediate attention. There will be information included in the newsletter regarding each resident's responsibility to keep their property free of litter and landscape debris.

The issue of the Borough garbage collectors overloading their trucks was addressed, and it was suggested that this be brought to the attention of the Mayor and Council. Al Kurpis reiterated that the Environmental Commission should present a concise report on environmental issues to the Mayor and Council on a monthly basis.

NEW BUSINESS: Marilyn Goldfisher stated that the bank at 71 East Allendale Road, currently under construction, has installed a seepage drain with the attached piping draining into the Saddle River. She showed the Commission pictures of same. Jerry DeCrosta stated that he would check into this issue.

She further stated that the boom in the Saddle River is ineffective and distributed photographs to the Commission. She stated that the boom is not positioned correctly, allowing a significant amount of debris to clog, causing flooding in heavy rains. Ron Yates suggested instituting a procedure that would require a routine inspection after a storm to access any debris that has accumulated, and for that debris to be cleared out to avoid this issue. It was suggested that Al Kurpis bring this to the attention of the Mayor and Council and consult with the Borough Engineer as well.

Marilyn Goldfisher suggested that the Borough institute "No Idling Zones", in order to cut down on the carbon monoxide levels polluting the air.

Marilyn Goldfisher showed the Commission many fishing lures and lines collected from the banks of the ponds along the Saddle River. Additionally, she showed photographs of the debris on the island portion of the Hekemian property at Barnstable Court. It was suggested that the Borough look into purchasing this small piece of property and utilize it as a small park.

Tree City Designation: The Commission reviewed a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council on April 15, 2013 recognizing the formation of a Tree Committee on December 1, 2011. This will be part of the application that will be submitted to the State Forester shortly for approval. Once approved, the Borough will receive signs designating Saddle River a Tree City and they will be posted on all Borough borders.

Marilyn Goldfisher suggested that the Borough install additional "No Littering" signs around town.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary