

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

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

ABSENT: Commission Members: Don Kretz

PRESIDING: Chairman 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 January 29, 2013 minutes by Commission Member Henry Senger. Seconded by Ron Yates
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

REVIEW OF 2012 ANNUAL REPORT Board Secretary Joy Convertini stated that it is the Environmental Commission's responsibility, per Chapter 21-5 of the code of the Borough of Saddle River, to file an annual report to the Mayor and Council. A draft copy of this report was reviewed by the Commission, with minor additions made. It will be presented to the Mayor and Council at their regular meeting on March 18, 2013.

A motion to approve the 2012 Annual Report of the Environmental Commission was offered by Board Member Bob LaViano. Seconded by Board Member Henry Senger.
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Chairman DeCrosta stated that the Environmental Commission accomplished quite a bit in 2012 and he would like to outline those projects for consideration in 2013. He further stated that he would like the Commission to send a letter to all Borough residents addressing issues including maintenance of private ponds, the removal of dead and hazardous trees, septic maintenance and water testing and pertinent information on the planting of a variety of tree species.

Private Ponds: Many of the private ponds in the Borough are having a problem with extreme silting, believed to be caused by runoff from the Saddle River Grand town home project. Last year, the Commission discussed inviting any residents with ponds on their properties to attend an informative session on pond maintenance. Chairman DeCrosta suggested that the Bergen County Mosquito Commission could assist with this project.

Spring Clean Up: Chairman DeCrosta stated that residents need to be reminded that no debris of any kind can be dumped or blown into the Saddle River as it can ultimately cause flooding problems and it is a violation.

Letter to Residents: The Environmental Commission addressed the contents of the letter they are planning to send to Borough residents. The letter will be sent out in April and Bob LaViano suggested creating an outline so each member could contribute information on a set subject matter. The dead tree issue, the general appearance of Borough property that requires cleanup, tree planting, water testing and septic maintenance information will be included topics in the letter.

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Update on Dead Tree Project: This was discussed and Bob LaViano stated that he feels that this project has stalled. In 2012 he worked with Downes Tree Service, Director of Operations Bruce Mautz and Borough Engineer Martin Spence identifying dead and hazardous trees on major streets throughout the Borough, but there are many more trees that need to be removed in order to avoid prolonged power outages during storms. He further stated that he would like the Mayor and Council to be aware that this project has stalled; it was suggested that Council Representative Al Kurpis make the Mayor and Council aware as well. Letters went out to residents with hazardous trees on their properties asking them to remove them and follow up is planned in the spring. Making residents aware of the impact of planting invasive specimens on their property was also discussed and it was suggested that this be included in the letter to the residents.

NEW BUSINESS: Ron Yates suggested that the Borough hold a fishing derby for the children as it raises awareness about the Saddle River and brings the community together. Chairman DeCrosta suggested that this be added to the letter to the residents and invite Bill Sheehan, the Hackensack River Keeper, to attend and give a lecture regarding fish life in the river prior to the start of the derby.

OLD BUSINESS: Ron Yates stated that the Tree City designation process is underway and the next step will be for the Mayor and Council to approve the application. A tree commission will have to be appointed as one of the criteria for this designation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary