

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: JUNE 24, 2013**

PRESENT: Commission Members: Marilyn Goldfisher, Don Kretz, Bob LaViano, Ron Yates

ABSENT: Chairman Jerry DeCrosta, Commission Member Henry Senger, Al Kurpis, Council Representative

PRESIDING: Ron Yates presided and 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 May 28, 2013 minutes by Don Kretz. Seconded by Marilyn Goldfisher
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Hazardous Tree Program: Ron Yates stated that the Commission needs to continue to be diligent with this project. Bob LaViano stated that it was discussed at the June 17, 2013 meeting of the Mayor and Council and he was informed that interns were hired to continue this project by identifying trees throughout the Borough that are in need of attention. He further stated that pressure needs to be put on certain home owners where trees on their property are dead or potentially hazardous. Letters have been sent to these home owners and the Commission stressed the importance of follow-up with this issue. Bob LaViano stated that he would contact Borough Engineer Martin Spence to obtain the status of this project.

Bob LaViano stated that the tree ordinance is in the process of being revised and he suggested that this ordinance include a list of prohibited invasive plants, which are detrimental to the environment if planted incorrectly.

Tree City Designation Update: Ron Yates stated that the application is waiting for the Arbor Day Report from Wandell School. He further stated that he would speak with Henry Senger about this, as he is on the Board of Education at Wandell School.

Environmental Insert in Fall Newsletter: Ron Yates stated that he would like to continue to remind residents, especially those that live along the Saddle River, to be diligent about not dumping any debris into the river to avoid flooding. The Commission also discussed the silt that is starting to collect in the Saddle River after the completion of the dredging project as well as the bank stabilization issues along the river banks.

The Waterford Gardens property was also discussed and a letter will be drafted from the Environmental Commission addressing violations on their property. This letter will require prior approval from the Mayor and Council.

Litter Control: Ron Yates stated that this continues to be a problem on busier roadways throughout the Borough. Bob LaViano stated that the Borough should contact residents along these roadways and remind them that they have a responsibility to clean up their property adjacent to the roadway. The littering signage was addressed and it was determined that new signs are needed. Bob LaViano

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stated that pictures should be taken of these properties and brought to the attention of the Mayor and Council.

Ron Yates addressed the deer problem that exists in Saddle River and stated that residents should be encouraged to use deer repellent. The Mayor and Council are contacting the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife for their input on the increased deer problem in the Borough.

Marilyn Goldfisher stated that she is going to meet Borough Engineer Martin Spence, June 26, 2013 at 8:30am to discuss the boom in the Saddle River and encouraged Environmental Commission members to join her.

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