

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD: MAY 28, 2013**

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**PRESENT:** Commission Members: Jerry DeCrosta, Chairman & Planning Board Rep., Marilyn Goldfisher, Don Kretz, Bob LaViano, Henry Senger, Ron Yates

**ABSENT:** Commission Members: Al Kurpis, Council Representative

**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 April 29, 2013 minutes by Jerry DeCrosta. Seconded by Ron Yates  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**WORK SESSION:**

**Environmental Insert in Borough Newsletter:** The Environmental Commission discussed their insert that was included in the spring 2013 Borough Newsletter. Topics addressed in this insert included keeping the Saddle River clean, the use of safer pesticides, hazardous tree removal, appropriate medication and chemical disposal and routine environmental measures. The Commission also discussed including another insert in the fall reminding residents about proper leaf and landscape debris disposal.

**Tree City Designation Update:** Ron Yates stated that the application was submitted to the state forester and it was returned, pending the submission of an Arbor Day Report. Henry Senger was going to address this issue.

**Hazardous Tree Program:** Chairman DeCrosta stated that he would like to see this program continue as there are still many areas in the Borough that need a significant amount of attention. Additionally, the Commission discussed utility company's responsibility for removing hazardous trees near power lines. The Commission addressed how to encourage Borough officials to be vigilant with this program as it poses a safety threat to residents, especially during bad storms.

The Commission discussed the Saddle River dredging project as well as the effectiveness of the existing boom. Marilyn Goldfisher stated that the river is filling with silt again and this needs to be addressed. Additionally, she stated that the boom is not effective in properly channeling debris that collects in the river and ultimately will begin to cause flooding.

The Commission also discussed the increase in deer and coyote sightings in the Borough, emphasizing their destructiveness to shrubs and plants.

**New Environmental Projects:** Marilyn Goldfisher stated that she feels that it is important to make residents aware of what they can put out for Bulky Trash pick-up. Electronics, hazardous materials, appliances and construction materials are not acceptable. Henry Senger stated that Northern Highlands conducts an electronics recycling day annually and it is widely utilized.

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**Litter Control:** The Commission was in agreement that many of the County roads, particularly East Allendale Road, have a significant litter problem and this was discussed in detail. Signage was also discussed and the need for new, as well as additional "No Littering" signs were addressed. Chairman DeCrosta suggested using the police trailer to remind drivers that the fine for littering in Saddle River is \$1000. Bob LaViano stated that he would like to bring this to the attention of the Mayor and Council as well as the building department.

**Keeping the Saddle River Clean:** The Commission discussed that there is still a problem with debris as well as an accumulation of silt in the river and this will ultimately cause flooding in heavy rains. Most of the residents in Saddle River are not aware of this issue with the river and Henry Senger suggested that the Environmental Club at Northern Highlands shoot a short video and post it for any interested parties to view.

**Waterford Garden Property:** The Commission discussed trying to meet with the owner of the property in order to address several issues that are not environmentally friendly. The property is located partially in a flood zone and part of the property has been sublet to a Koi farmer. Fish tanks have been installed in the wetlands and the Commission was questioning if these tanks comply. This property owner has been fined for DEP violations in the past and this was addressed in detail at this time. It was decided that a letter would be drafted, outlining the potential infractions on the Waterford property. This letter will be given to Martin Spence, Borough Engineer as well as having Al Kurpis, Council Representative, distribute it to the Mayor and Council.

**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