

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

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**PRESENT:** Chairman Jerry DeCrosta, Commission Members: Marilyn Goldfisher, Bob LaViano, Ron Yates, Henry Senger, Al Kurpis, Council Representative

**ABSENT:** Commission Member 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 October 28, 2013 minutes by Henry Senger. Seconded by Ron Yates  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**WORK SESSION:**

**Deer Management Seminar:** Bob LaViano attended this seminar and gave the Commission an overview of this program. He highlighted the fact that the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife recognize that the deer population are not only destroying the environment, but pose a serious safety threat to drivers. They have no predators, with the exception of the automobile, and have an extremely healthy diet resulting in reproduction at record rates. Additionally, they are eating the underbrush in the woods, impacting other small wildlife as well as the environment.

Jerry DeCrosta stated he would like to coordinate with Environmental Commissions in surrounding municipalities and attend a Freeholders meeting, making them aware of how great this problem is in northern Bergen County. The idea of bow hunting and the selling of the meat was also discussed.

**Tree Report:** Bob LaViano stated that several of the hazardous trees in the downtown area of the Borough have been removed. The hazardous tree program will continue.

**Salt/Debris in the Saddle River:** Nik Aktas explained that the Saddle River, south of the downtown area is now scouring a portion of the river, due to increased water flow. He further stated that in time, this will be responsible for damaging many trees along the river.

**Tree City:** Ron Yates stated that the information for the Tree City Designation is ready for submittal, however, the Borough Tree Ordinance is in the process of being amended and must be included.

Al Kurpis suggested having a community tree planting program in the Borough which could include the planting of the nearly extinct Chestnut Tree. Ron Yates also addressed bamboo and stated that most species are invasive and destructive and the Borough should consider banning this.

The Commission discussed the planting of trees around the perimeter of Rindlaub Park in order to make a living museum for residents to enjoy. They further addressed getting the children involved with both the fund raising as well as the planting and do this in conjunction with Arbor Day.

The Commission discussed the proposed amendments to the Tree Ordinance, currently being considered by the Mayor and Council.

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**Road Salt Alternatives/Salt Shed:** Jerry DeCrosta stated that there are products available to be used on the roadways prior to ice and snow storms that are significantly less toxic to the environment. The salt shed in the DPW yard is in need of replacement and the Mayor and Council are currently reviewing this.

**Year End Wrap Up:** Ron Yates stated that an annual report must be compiled, per the Borough Code. This should include budgetary items as well as the Commission's activity for 2013. New members for 2014 were discussed and Jerry DeCrosta stated that he would like to get parents of Wandell students involved in order to incorporate the students in environmental activities.

All were in agreement that the Wandell students should be an integral part of the programs and activities the Environmental Commission undertakes moving forward.

**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