

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

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 September 23, 2013 minutes by Bob LaViano. Seconded by Henry Senger.
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Revised Tree Ordinance: The Environmental Commission was in receipt of the proposed amendments to the existing Tree Ordinance. The Planning Board is holding a special meeting on October 29, 2013 at 7:00pm and members were encouraged to attend.

Newsletter: Chairman DeCrosta stated that he would like to get a message out to residents regarding the leaf clean-up, especially along properties adjacent to the Saddle River.

Pond Clearing/Dredging: Chairman DeCrosta stated that an extensive pond dredging project was done on Ackerman Road, and neighboring residents filed complaints that the water flow in the Wandell Brook was blocked as a result. It was determined that the water flow is diminished due to the lack of rain.

The Commission addressed the dredging project in the Saddle River and Marilyn Goldfisher stated that she did not feel the job was completed correctly. Ron Yates stated that Trout Unlimited offers assistance to municipalities in order to keep rivers flowing and free from debris and he would look into this.

Al Kurpis suggested that the Commission contact Borough Attorney Russell Huntington in order to determine what the legal responsibilities are for people living along the river and keeping that area free of debris.

Dead and hazardous trees along the Saddle River were also addressed and it was suggested that the proposed tree ordinance include language which required residents along the river to keep their property free from hazardous or dead trees which pose a danger to falling into the river.

The amended tree ordinance was discussed at this time, outlining the changes. Bob LaViano stated that he has a concern regarding the planting of invasive species. Chairman DeCrosta stated that this is a landscaping issue and should be addressed by the Planning Board, with Landscape Architect Scott Levy granting approval prior to receiving a CCO.

Chairman DeCrosta further stated that a letter should be drafted outlining the environmental concerns related to the proposed tree ordinance and again, encouraged members to attend the meeting.

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Clear cutting of trees was also addressed and it was suggested that tree permits include the identification of trees to be removed as well as restricting tree work to weekdays only. It was also suggested that this permit be prominently displayed on the property.

Bob LaViano addressed the deer issue and suggested that bow hunting be legalized in the Borough. Chairman DeCrosta stated that there is a seminar in Hillsborough, NJ on dealing with the growing problem with the deer population in New Jersey and urged everyone to attend.

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