

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Nik Aktas, Andrew Epstein, Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates, Jerry DeCrosta: Council Rep

ABSENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Emily Kaufman, Jeff Liva: Planning Board Rep

PRESIDING: Commission Member Ron Yates 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 23, 2013 and on the Borough website."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the January 27, 2014 minutes by Nik Aktas. Seconded by Nicholas Turturro
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Status of Tree Ordinance: Ron Yates stated that the new amendments to the tree ordinance have not yet been approved by the Mayor and Council. Jerry DeCrosta stated that it should be approved shortly, enabling the Environmental Commission to submit their final application for the Tree City Designation. He further explained that the tree ordinance must include language relating to trees on municipal property as part of the requirement for Tree City.

Improvement of roadside and wooded lot appearance within the Borough: Ron Yates stated that this issue continues to be a significant concern with the Environmental Commission, particularly on major roadways. The Commission will be submitting a letter to the Mayor and Council encouraging them to take action in order to clean up Borough roadways. The dead and hazardous tree program, which identifies trees on major roadways that need to be removed is ongoing and was discussed in detail at this time.

Deer Management Issue: It was decided that the Commission was going to reach out to neighboring municipalities in order to work together to attempt to eradicate or minimize this problem. It is a very significant problem and will be difficult to address due to the increased number of deer in the area; legalizing a bow hunting program was discussed.

Streetscape Project: The streetscape project, which will include the replacement of sidewalks, curbing and lighting along East Allendale Road between East Saddle River Road and West Saddle River Road was discussed. Included in this project, the extensive planting of dogwood trees was addressed and the Commission would like to implement this through Wandell School, perhaps as a fund raiser. Jerry DeCrosta stated that the Environmental Commission should review the Streetscape plan in order to develop a corresponding landscaping plan. Donating a tree for each graduating class moving forward was also discussed and this would be funded by the Environmental Commission budget.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

Septic System Inspections: Ron Yates stated that he would like the Environmental Commission to submit another newsletter to be circulated to all residents in the Borough. He would like to include septic system maintenance in this newsletter, making people aware that ignoring routine maintenance could result in a costly replacement issue.

Tree Farms: Ron Yates stated that Woodcliff Lake is initiating a tree farm and the Environmental Commission discussed the merits of this in Saddle River.

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