

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: JUNE 23, 2014**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Nik Aktas, Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates, Jeff Liva: Planning Board Rep

ABSENT: Andrew Epstein, Jerry DeCrosta, Council Representative

PRESIDING: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano called the meeting to order at 6:35pm; 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 April 28, 2014 minutes by Nick Turturro. Seconded by Ron Yates
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Wandell School Class of 2014 Tree Dedication: Bob LaViano thanked Nik Aktas for his efforts in making this event possible for the Wandell School Class of 2014. A tree will be planted annually for the graduating class and this will be organized through the Environmental Commission.

Status of Tree Ordinance: Bob LaViano stated that the amended tree ordinance is currently being reviewed by the Mayor and Council and should be introduced shortly.

Roadside Appearance: Bob LaViano stated that this project will be put on hold as the trees are in bloom and it is difficult to determine areas in need of attention. He further stated that he will work with Bruce Mautz, Director of Operations, in order to determine areas that need special attention. Landscape debris and litter are a problem on major roadways throughout the Borough and the Environmental Commission has made the Mayor and Council aware of this issue and has recommended it be addressed.

The Commission discussed hiring a chipper service for a town-wide chipper day in order to provide residents the opportunity to have their smaller brush and landscape debris disposed of. Leaf collection and disposal was also addressed, all were in agreement that this will continue to be the responsibility of the home owner.

Deer Management Issue: Bob LaViano stated that he attended a meeting in Allendale regarding this issue as well as informing the Mayor and Council of the severity of this problem. He further stated that the only solution to rectify this problem would be to cull the herd. Emily Kauffman discussed the in-depth permitting process to initiative deer hunting in a municipality. She further stated that it would be beneficial for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to

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return and give another presentation on the deer management issue in Saddle River and insure that residents are made aware prior.

Septic System Inspections: Bob LaViano stated that residents need to be reminded periodically to maintain their septic systems. This will continue to be included in the Borough Newsletter.

Tree Planting Initiative: Nik Aktas addressed the Dogwood Tree sale at Wandell School in April and stated that 30 trees were sold. Next year this event will be publicized well in advance in the hope of selling more trees.

Rindlaub Park – Dog Restrictions, Trash Receptacles & Water Fountain: There will be new trash receptacles in the park to accommodate trash, recyclables and dog waste. Dogs will be permitted in Rindlaub Park on leash only and owners will be required to pick up after their dog.

Marker Property/Community Garden: This garden, located on the Marker property, is complete and volunteers are needed to maintain the garden 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