

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

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Nik Aktas, Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Jerry DeCrosta: Council Rep., Jeff Liva: Planning Board Rep.

ABSENT: Andrew Epstein & Ron Yates

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 October 27, 2014 minutes by Nick Turturro. Seconded by Bob LaViano
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Deer Management Initiative: Bob LaViano stated that, after a joint meeting of the Environmental Commission and the Board of Health to address this issue, the Mayor and Council addressed this at their regular meeting on November 17, 2014. It was determined that language in the current ordinance regulating hunting would have to be amended to permit bow hunting within the Borough. Jerry DeCrosta outlined a preliminary plan which would include hiring a professional bow hunting firm and starting on larger parcels of property, with permission, throughout the Borough. Additionally, a committee must be formed in order to address all aspects of this issue and Police Chief Tim McWilliams and Captain Jason Cosgriff were suggested as they are avid hunters. Additional members would include Bob LaViano, Jerry DeCrosta, Nik Aktas, Dr. Duncan Carpenter and Herman Hockmeyer. The committee will be responsible for both the rules and regulations for hunters, who will be required to be registered with the Saddle River Police Department, as well as the legislative process with the Mayor and Council. The Commission discussed holding a public meeting and all were in agreement that this topic has been addressed numerous times at Mayor and Council meetings and interested parties should be informed at this point that a cull is being considered. Residents will have to grant permission individually to permit hunting on their property and their immediate neighbors must be notified as well.

Bob LaViano suggested that Carol Stanko, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, attend the first committee meeting to offer suggestions and collaborate on techniques utilized by other municipalities that permitting bow hunting.

Roadside Appearance: Bob LaViano stated that he feels that many residents living on major roadways throughout the Borough have cleared up debris and brush, significantly improving roadside appearance. He further stated that he would like to see the property adjacent to the Marker property cleaned up, particularly the culvert.

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The Marker Property: The Commission members were in agreement that the Marker home should be utilized; it was funded by an Open Space Grant, which places many restrictions on how the dwelling may be utilized.

Newsletter Topics: Bob LaViano stated that the Winter 2014 Newsletter will be coming out shortly and topics were discussed at this time. It was decided that roadside appearance, the deer management issue and Maple tree maintenance would be addressed.

Tree Planting Initiative: The pink dogwood tree is the official tree of Saddle River and Bob LaViano stated that he would like to see more of them continue to be planted throughout the Borough. It was decided that the dogwood sale at Wandell School would be held in conjunction with both Arbor Day and Earth Day and it would be publicized in the Spring 2015 Newsletter.

Hazardous Tree Removal: Bob LaViano stated that this program was very successful and it will continue in 2015. The Commission discussed the removal of dead trees and the permitting process that is required per the Borough code.

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