

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD: APRIL 28, 2014**

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**PRESENT:** Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Nik Aktas, Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates, Jerry DeCrosta, Council Representative

**ABSENT:** Andrew Epstein, Jeff Liva: Planning Board Rep

**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 March 24, 2014 minutes by Emily Kaufman. Seconded by Nicholas Turturro  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**WORK SESSION:**

**Roadside Appearance:** Bob LaViano stated that he attended the Mayor and Council meeting on April 21, 2014 and addressed roadside appearance; he circulated pictures taken on both Borough property as well as alongside major roadways, indicating the problem with both landscape debris and litter.

He further stated that he would like to address an action plan to present to the Mayor and Council along with a list of extremely problematic areas. Initial areas included the intersection of Route 17 and East Allendale Avenue, East Allendale Avenue, Borough Hall/Marker property area, Wandell School property and Bishop House property.

**Deer Management Issue:** Bob LaViano stated that he addressed this issue at the Mayor and Council Meeting as well and all were in agreement that something must be done but it must be a joint effort with neighboring towns. He further stated that he has spoken with several other towns and, with the exception of Allendale, they do not seem to have as great of a problem as Saddle River. Jerry DeCrosta stated that he has reached out to the Board of Chosen Freeholders and plans to attend their next meeting in order to address this issue and obtain any assistance the County can offer. Bob LaViano further stated that the deer problem is also causing an increase in the coyote population, which is extremely dangerous. All were in agreement that the herd must be culled but the logistics in doing so are complicated.

**Rindlaub Park Trash Receptacles & Water Fountain:** Jerry DeCrosta stated that he was going to make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council to purchase larger, more efficient recycling bins for use in Rindlaub Park. The water fountain will be incorporated into the field house renovation project, currently being designed.

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The Commission also addressed dogs being permitted in Rindlaub Park. The signage and the current Borough ordinance do not indicate the same thing and this must be rectified. The Commission was in agreement that dogs should be permitted, on a leash only.

**Dogwood Tree Sale:** Nik Aktas reported on the Dogwood Tree sale at Wandell School and stated that there were 30 trees sold at \$46 each and will be ready on April 29, 2014 for pick up at Living Earth Nursery in Saddle River. The Environmental Commission will be donating a tree each year, the species to be determined as a graduation gift to the Wandall School graduates.

The Commission addressed instituting a prescription medication take back as well as a battery drop program in Saddle River.

**Status of Tree Ordinance:** Jerry DeCrosta stated that the amended tree ordinance will be introduced again at the May 19, 2014 meeting of the Mayor and Council. He further stated that he needs a list of all invasive plants that should be prohibited in Saddle River which he would like to see incorporated in the replanting section of the ordinance.

**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