

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: JANUARY 27, 2014**

Environmental Commission getting involved and giving their input.

Tree City, Arbor Day and tree planting initiative: The Commission was in agreement that the Wandell students would get involved with a tree planting and identification initiative and this was addressed.

The Marker Property: The Commission was in agreement that the home and the barn on the property should remain. The property is being cleared in order to add parking and a new ingress and egress to Rindlaub Park. Jerry DeCrosta encouraged the Environmental Commission to review the plans in order to provide feedback and implement landscaping ideas.

Erosion of the Saddle River: Ron Yates stated that there is a serious problem with both erosion and debris in the Saddle River and suggested installing riprap in order to re-channel the river and alleviate the island that has been created due to river flow. Jerry DeCrosta suggested that a plan be draw up and presented to Martin Spence, Borough Engineer for review.

Landscaping debris on private property: Bob LaViano stated that, in addition to litter, there is a tremendous amount of landscaping debris as well as dead trees and branches on private property along Borough roadways. He further stated that people should be responsible for their woodlands along roadways, as it is unsightly. The Commission discussed this and was in agreement that it is very difficult to police this problem.

Deer Management Issue: The Commission was in agreement that this is a very serious problem, causing illness, traffic accidents and ruining the environment. Chairman LaViano stated that he attended a seminar presented by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife on this issue and he would like to see a plan developed in conjunction with the County to permit bow hunting in an effort to reduce the deer population. It was determined that neighboring municipalities would be contacted in order to see if they wished to combine efforts in addressing this problem.

Septic System Inspections: Chairman LaViano stated that he feels it is important that residents maintain their septic systems in order to protect the environment. Ron Yates stated that residents must be reminded to check and pump out their systems periodically in order to keep them running efficiently. Septic contractors must be licensed with the Borough and a permit must be obtained. Martin Spence is responsible for reviewing the septic plans as well as performing all of the inspections; permits are issued through the building department.

Quote to purchase trees for Borough plantings: Nik Aktas distributed a quote provided by Living Earth Nursery which included 500 Dogwood trees as well as a proposed planting list for both the Saddle River Museum and the Borough Hall. The Commission discussed a town-wide planting program, which could be done in conjunction with Arbor Day, with Wandell students and other groups participating.

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