

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

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Andrew Epstein, Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Jeff Liva: Planning Board Rep

ABSENT: Ron Yates, 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 February 24, 2014 minutes by Andrew Epstein Seconded by Nicholas Turturro
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

PSE&G Tree Maintenance: Bob LaViano stated that he met with two representatives from PSE&G in order to coordinate and improve procedures for removing trees that are deemed to be a potential hazard during storms, causing widespread power outages in Saddle River. The hazardous tree program, initiated by the Borough, has been successful to date but must be continued in order to insure not only safety but the prevention of power outages.

Roadside Appearance: Major roadways throughout Saddle River are littered with both debris and dead landscaping debris that is extremely unsightly. Bob LaViano stated that the Mayor and Council should be made aware of this concern and it was decided that Council Representative Jerry DeCrosta would relay this message. It was the Commission’s opinion that the poor appearance of Borough roadsides is counter-productive to the image of Saddle River as a community. Additionally, the Commission addressed overloaded and uncovered garbage trucks, causing additional litter on Borough roadways. A town-wide chipping program was also addressed by the Commission.

Streetscape Project: This DOT funded project will include the replacement of sidewalks, curbing and lighting. The Environmental Commission would like to view the plans for this project in order to implement an extensive landscaping plan.

Septic System Inspections: The Commission addressed the merits of establishing a protocol by ordinance in order to keep track of both residential and commercial septic system maintenance in the Borough. Keeping residents informed by including septic information in the Borough Newsletter was also addressed and it was decided that this topic would be included. It was the

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opinion of the Commission that many residents are unaware of the need for septic maintenance as well as the costs associated with replacement.

Tree Planting Initiative: Woodcliff Lake is setting up a tree farm in order to grow trees and implant a planting program throughout the Borough. Bob LaViano suggested that Saddle River consider a similar program and the Commission discussed this in detail. The Commission also addressed having the Wandell School students participate in a tree planting initiative. Emily Kaufman stated that the graduating class could plant a tree each year as an end-of-the-year gift to the school.

Deer Management Issue: Bob LaViano stated that there is an increasing problem with coyotes in the area and this could impact the deer population moving forward. Legalizing bow hunting was also addressed but, without the cooperation of neighboring municipalities, it would not be effective in eradicating or minimizing this problem. The Environmental Commission would like to coordinate with the Mayor and Council, the Police Department and the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife to orchestrate a plan to address this problem.

Arbor Day/Earth Day: The Commission was in agreement that both Earth Day and Arbor Day be recognized in Saddle River with an organized event.

Status of Tree Ordinance: The public hearing for the amended Tree Ordinance will be on April 21, 2014 at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council. Bob LaViano encouraged Commission members to attend in order to contribute their feedback.

Newsletter: The Commission discussed topics for the spring newsletter to include septic system maintenance, roadside appearance, and Arbor/Earth Day recognition.

NEW BUSINESS: Emily Kaufman discussed the addition of new trash receptacles' in Rindlaub Park. The current receptacles' are not sufficient in size or design and there is no ability to recycle. Bob LaViano suggested addressing this with the Mayor and Council as well. The addition of a water fountain in Rindlaub was also discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini
Secretary