

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: MAY 2, 2016 (Rescheduled from 4/25/16)**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Commission Members:
Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates
Planning Board Rep Jeff Liva, Special Guests: Borough Landscape Architect Scott Levy
and Borough Engineer Martin Spence

ABSENT: Council Rep Ron Gray, Nik Aktas, Jerry DeCrosta,

PRESIDING: Commission Chairman LaViano called the meeting to order at 6:45pm;
Commission Secretary Mary Cremer 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 Herald News and The Record on December 16, 2015 and on the Borough website."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the March 28, 2016 minutes by
Ron Yates. Seconded by Jeff Liva
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

**Informal Discussion with Borough Landscape Architect Scott Levy and Martin
Spence**

Bob LaViano stated that he invited Borough Landscape Architect Scott Levy and Borough Engineer Martin Spence to discuss what the Commission wanted to accomplish for the future of Saddle River. He further stated that a lot of the older trees have died or are diseased and the Environmental Commission has worked closely in getting rid of 300 or more in the last three years. He further suggested that it is now time to come up with a program to motivate residents to replant.

Martin Spence and Scott Levy explained to the Commission how the Planning and Zoning Boards work; explaining that during this process, Mr. Levy works very closely with the resident's Landscape Architect as part of the acceptance process.

Scott Levy went into great detail on what native materials are best suited for Saddle River's environment. He explained what trees and shrubs are resistant to deer and native insects. He further explained that he discourages residents from using trees and shrubs that are not native to the Environment; explaining that he makes it a requirement when they are in front of the Planning and Zoning Boards to use these materials. He further explained that he wanted the commission to understand that if it's not a property that has filed for a variance he can only make suggestions however, residents can plant what they want on their property outside of the non-disturbance zone.

Bob LaViano suggested Scott Levy make a master recommended list of what he suggests be planted in Saddle River, further suggesting it should be scaled to explain what is most recommended to least recommended. Bob LaViano further suggested that they can publish this list.

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The Commission addressed residents maintaining their properties properly including not using invasive material (i.e. bamboo). It was further discussed that it is a delicate topic and hard to get people to clean up what they can argue is part of nature. The pros, cons and cost of having the Borough and/or DPW get involved were weighed out. It was further discussed the Borough do a yearly maintenance evaluation,

breaking it down into sections of town to keep cost down. It was decided that a list of properties in need of attention would be provided to John Scialla who is the property maintenance supervisor.

Dogwood Tree Planting

Bob LaViano stated that he has spoken with Mayor Kurpis who is in favor of continuing the planting initiative. Mayor Kurpis has suggested planting around the Bishop property, the Borough Hall and the safety complex. The Commission further discussed planting at the Rindlaub Park.

Newsletter

Bob LaViano stated that Joy Convertini, Borough Clerk, informed him that it would be coming out next week. He further informed the Commission that Ron Yates sent in an item on tree city and he sent in an article on ten things residents can do to improve the Borough.

River Boom Project

There was no new news regarding the River Boom Project.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one wished to be heard

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Nick Turturro and seconded by Emily Kaufman to adjourn the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cremer
Secretary