

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD: FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

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**PRESENT:** Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Commission Members: Nik Aktas, Nicholas Turturro, Jeff Liva, Planning Board Rep

**ABSENT:** Board Members Jerry DeCrosta, Emily Kaufman, Ron Yates, Ron Gray, Council Rep

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made to approve the January 25, 2016 (held February 1, 2016) minutes by Nik Aktas. Seconded by Jeff Liva  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

Bob LaViano stated that the Deer Management Resolution was addressed at the Mayor and Council Meeting on February 22, 2016 and the process continues to move forward under the direction of the Wildlife Management Committee.

**Tree Planting and Preservation/Tree City Update**

Bob LaViano stated that Borough Landscape Architect Scott Levy will attend next month's meeting to discuss tree planting and preservation within the Borough.

**Exxon Property Design Ideas**

Bob LaViano stated that the Environmental Commission presented the Mayor and Council with recommendations regarding design ideas for the Exxon Property. Board Members discussed the pond behind Waterford Gardens, and the ability to connect the Exxon property. All were in agreement that this was not efficient. The boom and the current problem with debris in the Saddle River was discussed in detail at this time. The Commission was in agreement that the installation of a comprehensive native plant landscape design with pathways and benches for the public to enjoy would be an appropriate use of this property.

**Wildlife Feeding Issue**

Bob LaViano stated that several residents in Saddle River have been feeding wildlife and ways to curtail this was addressed. It was decided that this issue would be included in the upcoming newsletter.

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**Coyote Control**

Bob LaViano stated that the deer issue is exacerbating the increased coyote population. There have been many sightings lately and this is a public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**Roadside and Property Maintenance**

A list of 12 properties in need of maintenance has been given to Borough Engineer Spence; he will be sending letter to these residents reminding them to clean up their properties. Most of these properties are located on major roadways within the Borough and it is extremely unsightly. Bob LaViano further stated that the Borough should consider having the DPW work on the areas in the right of way.

**Invasive Plant Control**

Bob LaViano stated that this is a problem in the Borough and there is a need to better educate residents on the dangers of planting invasive species. Bamboo in particular was discussed as this is the most frequently planted species. In many instances, it has taken over properties on corners and significantly limits visibility, making this a traffic concern. Bob LaViano stated that he would like to see all properties where new homes are being constructed cleared of all invasives prior to construction. This topic should be addressed in the newsletter as well.

**Borough Newsletter**

Topics for the next newsletter were addressed and having the Environmental Commission send out an independent newsletter will be further addressed.

**Pond Condition at 39 Woodcliff Lake Road**

Bob LaViano stated that there will be new construction at this address and he would like to see the pond cleaned, as it is in bad shape. This was discussed in detail, including methods of remediation and aeration.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini  
Secretary