

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD: FEBRUARY 1, 2016 (Rescheduled from 1/25/16)**

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**PRESENT:** Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Commission Members: Nik Aktas, Jerry DeCrosta, Emily Kaufman, Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates, Jeff Liva, Planning Board

**ABSENT:** Council Rep Ron Gray

**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 November 23, 2015 minutes by Nik Aktas. Seconded by Jeff Liva  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**RE-ORGANIZATION**

**Appointment of Commission Chairman Bob LaViano**

Motion Offered Jerry DeCrosta  
Seconded by Nik Aktas  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**Appointment of Commission Secretary Joy Convertini**

Motion Offered by Ron Yates  
Seconded by Nik Aktas  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

Bob LaViano stated that the Deer Management issue is not on the agenda as the Wildlife Management Committee will now be focusing their efforts on this important matter. He further stated that the Mayor and Council will work with the Wildlife Management Committee to arrive at a solution beneficial to all involved.

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

Bob LaViano stated that he would like Scott Levy, Borough Landscape Architect to attend the February 23, 2016 meeting to address the status of trees within the Borough. Jerry DeCrosta stated that Scott Levy's input is very important as he is responsible for insuring that, during all construction projects, residents install planting material as proposed.

Ron Yates stated that the Tree City designation is pending but should be completed shortly. He needs to get budget information regarding tree expenditures in 2015.

The Commission addressed trees that are partially obstructing Borough roadways and it was determined that any concerns should be directed to either Borough Engineer, Martin Spence or Director of Operations, Bruce Mautz. Residents in violation should be notified in writing.

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Bob LaViano stated that Mayor Kurpis is interested in planting additional Dogwood trees throughout the downtown area and this was addressed in detail at this time. Jeff Liva asked if there is a comprehensive plan in the downtown area to tie the Streetscape project and the landscaping together. This was addressed; Bob LaViano stated that it is very difficult to prepare a plan in an area this large.

Nik Aktas stated that the area between the Fire Department parking lot and the Wandell School is in need of new trees and this would be an area to focus on in the near future.

It was decided that Ron Yates and Nik Aktas would design a plan for the planting of 20 Dogwood trees in the downtown area of the Borough this spring.

**Exxon Property Design Ideas**

Bob LaViano stated that it would be desirable to create a park in this location with native plantings and paths for the public to enjoy. He further stated that this is the center of town and a highly visible location. Jerry DeCrosta stated that he would like it to represent the rich history of Saddle River, with perhaps a windmill or the historic Perillo home on this property.

Bob LaViano stated that he would like to send a recommendation to the Mayor and Council regarding this property, encouraging the Borough to maintain the historical significance with the installation of a native planting design that can be accessible to the public. The importance of creating an attractive setting in the center of Saddle River must be emphasized as well. (A copy of the letter of recommendation is attached.)

The Commission addressed the benefits of adding turning lanes on the corners of East Allendale and West Saddle River Roads as well, which will also be part of the recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

Nick Turturro stated that the Borough of Allendale has a similar concept on Franklin Turnpike and this was discussed in detail.

**Spring Roadside Wood Chipping Plan**

Bob LaViano stated that he feels there has been a significant improvement throughout town with the removal of landscape debris and he did not think conducting a chipping day would be efficient in Saddle River at this time.

**2016 Budget**

The 2016 Budget was distributed and discussed at this time. The budget for 2016 is \$15,000, with approximately \$5000.00 allocated to the Wildlife Management Committee for mailings and press releases. The Environmental Commission addressed their possible expenses for 2016 at this time.

**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