

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD: June 27, 2016**

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**PRESENT:** Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Commission Members: Nicholas Turturro, Ron Yates, Jeff Liva, Planning Board Rep.

**ABSENT:** Council Rep Ron Gray, Commission Members: Nik Aktas, Jerry DeCrosta, Emily Kaufman

**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 May 23, 2016 minutes by Jeff Liva. Seconded by Nicholas Turturro  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**Tree City/Forester Application**

Ron Yates informed The Commission that he had written Carrie Sargent, Assistant Regional Forester, inquiring if she had looked into combining two to five adjoining lots to meet the five acre minimum lot requirement needed to obtain assistance with the Ash Tree control. He further informed the Commission that this letter went out ten days ago and, due to the fact that he has not received a response, he thinks she may have to do further research and speak with her superiors.

Bob LaViano stated that he didn't see the logic in taking down all the Ash trees. He further stated that the tree is killed by the Emerald Ash Borer and once the tree is dead, it moves on. He further explained he has concerns that being they only live in the live Ash Trees, you would have to take down every live Ash tree.

Ron Yates explained that since The State Forestry has a program in place Saddle River should take advantage of it, as other towns do, because it is costly to remove trees. He suggested it should be discussed in depth after the Commission receives an answer from the state forestry service.

Bob LaViano informed the Commission that the only proven way of preventing an Emerald Ask Borer infestation from occurring is to use a systemic insecticide such as merit. If they combine that with the removal of some Ash trees, the program may prevail.

Ron Yates stated that Scott Levy, Borough Landscape Architect, can be the town's forester however, the Forestry program prefers a state forester. He further stated that Carrie Sargent, Assistant Regional Forester, was pleased with everything the Commission has given her for the Tree City application. The Commission agreed to proceed with a formal application.

The Commission further discussed treating the young Ash tree's in front of Borough Hall and agreed it would be wise to discuss using preventative measures with Scott Levy.

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**Wandell School**

Bob LaViano informed the Commission that the Centennial Committee for Wandell School would like to plant a centennial tree next year. He asked the Commission to research where would be a prominent spot for such a planting and what species of tree should commemorate such an occasion. The Commission discussed possible use of an American Chestnut or Oak.

Ron Yates stated that John Randolph, Saddle River resident, is an unofficial tree expert. He further informed the Commission that he has invited Mr. Randolph to become a Commission member and he has responded favorably. Bob LaViano suggested that the Commission invite Mr. Randolph to the September meeting.

**Status of the recycling compliance**

Jeff Liva suggested the Borough should consider the addition of a recycling center and emphasized the convenience for residents.

Nicholas Turturro stated that he believes a big problem with getting residents to comply is the extensive way Saddle River is required to sort recycling. He further stated he did not foresee residents putting the recycling in their car and driving it to a recycling center.

**Roadside Cleanup**

Bob LaViano stated that he feels this is a perpetual topic and had nothing to add. He further stated that with the warm weather and new foliage, problem areas are less noticeable and the Commission should readdress this issue come fall.

**Agenda for fall meetings**

The Commission suggested the following for the fall agenda

- Wandell School Centennial Tree Planting
- Tree City/Forester Application
- Recycling Compliance
- Home Safety Using Chemicals
- Discussion with John Randolph

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:** No one wished to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Ron Yates and seconded by Nicholas Turturro to adjourn the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cremer  
Secretary