

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

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

**ABSENT:** Council Rep Ron Gray, 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 May 02, 2016 minutes by  
Ron Yates. Seconded by Nik Aktas  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**WORK SESSION:**

**Tree City USA**

Ron Yates introduced Carrie Sargeant who is the Assistant Regional Forester for the Urban and Community Forestry Division. After briefing The Commission on a little history of Tree City USA, Carrie Sargeant explained some of the benefits of having a State approved Community Forestry Management Plan. Some of the benefits are as follows.

- Liability protection under the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Act
- Grant opportunities from the Community Stewardship Incentive Program
- Environmental, economic, and social benefits that trees give our community

Carrie Sargeant further explained that in order to receive these benefits, you must achieve approved status by doing the following:

**Application requirements:**

- Form a Tree Board or Department (i.e. The Environmental Commission)
- Have a Tree Care Ordinance
- Have a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita
- Have an Arbor Day proclamation and observance

**Initial Year:**

- Develop a state approved community forestry management plan and implement it
- Participate in their training skills and accreditation program and have core-trained representatives including one volunteer and one employee
- Send an annual accomplishment report

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Subsequent Year:

- Implement our community forestry management plan
- Maintain core training requirements
- Continue education CEU's totaling eight by two or more people

Carrie Sargeant explained that to get us started there is a green community's grant, which is non-competitive and backed by their federal core funding of \$3,000. This grant is to be used to hire a certified tree expert, consulting forester or arborist to develop our community forestry management plan. She further explained the grant requires a 100% match.

Bob LaViano and Patty Navarro explained to Carrie Sargeant some of the problems facing Saddle River including the deer and not replenishing trees that have been removed. Carrie Sargeant suggested to the Commission they should make sure they address these issues in their Forestry Management Plan. She further suggested The Commission should make sure they put an Emerald Ash Bore mitigation plan in the Forestry Management Plan. She further suggested the town start identifying Ash Trees right away, explain that the Emerald Ash Borer has been found as close as Hillsdale. She further educated The Commission on the dangers of the Emerald Ash Borer and suggested we contact the State Department of Agriculture to volunteer to have trap(s) set on willing participants properties.

Carrie Sargeant informed The Commission of a program through the State that gives every child in third grade a tree for Arbor Day.

**Wandell Tree Planting**

Bob LaViano asked the status of the Wandell Tree Planting. Nik Aktas informed Chairman LaViano that he has spoken with his landscaper and it is in the works. Nik Aktas informed The Commission it is a three inch caliber tree and will be hand planted.

**Roadside Cleanup**

Bob LaViano stated that he feels this is a perpetual topic and had nothing to add, he further asked if The Commission had anything more to add and they replied they hadn't. Bob LaViano stated that with the warm weather and new foliage, problem areas are less noticeable. He further stated that if the Commission observes anything, to call Bruce Mautz at the Department of Public Works. Bob LaViano informed the Commission that he was going to be bringing the list of derelict properties to John Scialla, The Construction Official.

**Newsletter**

Bob LaViano asked the Commission if everyone had seen the Town Newsletter in which everyone responded that they had. He then stated that they submitted ten tips from the Commission however only five made it into the paper.

**River Boom Project**

There was no new information regarding the River Boom Project.

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**Town Wide Recycling**

Bob LaViano invited Patty Nazzero to speak with the Commission. She informed the Commission that she has been newly appointed to be the Chairman of the Recycling Committee. She further informed the Commission that she has been working with Wandell School on ways they can start recycling more effectively. She added that she is also looking into programs and ways to get the students involved. She also informed The Commission she has been working with Bruce from the DPW on how to get more residents to participate in recycling. She explained some of the ideas include buying recycling bins for residents that don't have them and sending out a recycling schedule with educational information. She explained that everything is in a research stage and will keep the Environmental Commission informed.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cremer  
Secretary