

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD: OCTOBER 24, 2016**

PRESENT: Commission Chairman Bob LaViano, Commission Members: Nik Aktas, Nicholas Turturro, Jeff Liva, Planning Board Rep., Paul Schulstad, Council Rep.

ABSENT: Commission Members Ron Yates, Emily Kaufman, and 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 September 26, 2016 minutes by Nicholas Turturro. Seconded by Jeff Liva
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

WORK SESSION:

Environmental Commission 2017 Budget:

The Commission members spoke and collectively decided to keep the budget for 2017 the same. The Commission spoke in detail about how much it would cost for tree planting next year. There was movement of money allowance between categories, allowing more money for tree plantings in the upcoming year.

Recycling Program Status

Bob LaViano stated that he has not received any updates from Patti Nazzaro, Chairman of the Recycling Committee. He suggested having a sanitation service offering co-mingling capabilities, as discussed at prior meetings, be researched by the Mayor and Council. Further suggested making contact with our recycling company and speak with them about how to make it easier for Saddle River residents to recycle.

Council Member Schulstad stated that Himself or Les Shenkler, Borough Administrator speak with the company after analyzing the Borough's contract.

The Commission members discussed having an enclosed garbage bin to keep garbage away from resident houses and safe from animals. It was further discussed that it could cause zoning issues for some residents.

A motion was made to make 48 square foot garbage bins exempt from zoning ordinances by Jeff Liva. Seconded by Nik Aktas
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

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Tree City Status

Council Member Schulstad stated that he spoke with Commission Member Ron Yates who was absent at tonight's meeting. He further stated that Mr. Yates informed him that the only thing missing from the application is the Mayor's signature. He further stated that he feels at this point the application, after being subject to final confirmation from the Environmental Commission, is ready for Council action. The Environmental Commission should ask the Mayor and Council to direct the Borough Administrator to ensure the Tree City application is filed by the end of this year.

Shade Tree Replanting Program

Bob LaViano stated that he feels that this program goes along with the Tree City application.

Invasive Plant Control

Bob LaViano stated that he feels this is a growing problem and has been ignored.

The Commission members discussed the different types of species that have become a problem including, bamboo, tree of heaven, barberry, Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, non-native sumac, poison ivy, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, multiflora rose.

Council Member Schulstad stated that the Environmental Commission members should speak with Scott Levy to discuss their list of invasive species. It was decided that Jeff Liva would call Scott Levy, Borough Landscape Architect to review the list of invasive species.

A motion was made by Jeff Liva and seconded by Nik Aktas to recommend to the Mayor and Council a clause in the Ordinance that allows residents to remove invasive species from the 25ft non-disturbance zone.

Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Nik Aktas and seconded by Jeff Liva to adjourn the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Cremer
Secretary