

EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY
APRIL 22, 2009

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Chairwoman Martin opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Clerk has notified all officially published newspapers of this meeting, and notice has been posted in the Municipal Office.

ROLL CALL:

Chairwoman Joan Martin – Present
Mrs. Karen Browne – Present
Ms. Danielle DiPaola – Present
Mr. Peter Martin – Present
Mrs. Shirley Michalski – Absent
Dr. Phil Nisonoff – Present
Mrs. Michelle Pierce – Present
Mr. Richard Worthington – Present
Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Present
Councilman Tom Browne – Present
Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Present

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on March 25, 2009 by Mr. Worthington, seconded by Ms. DiPaola, and carried.

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST:

Chairwoman Martin introduced and invited essay contest winners – Aaron Gordon, Julia Harada, and Christopher Sturm – to come forward to read their essays and receive their awards. Chairwoman Martin, on behalf of the Commission, thanked the students who participated and the families for attending this evening's meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION:

A motion was made to open public session by Ms. DiPaola, seconded by Mrs. Browne, and carried, with no comments.

A motion was made to close public session by Mrs. Zoeller, seconded by Ms. DiPaola, and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Memo from Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund – dated 3/16/09 – Re: Rights and Duties of a Volunteer in Local Government
- Email from ANJEC – dated 4/8/09 – Re: Clean energy seminar on 4/15/09
- Memo from Dr. Phil Nisonoff – dated 4/1/09 – Re: "Lights out Day"
- Email from ANJEC – dated 4/2/09 – Re: Sustainable Jersey seminar on 4/29/09
- Flyer from ANJEC – Re: ANJEC'S 40TH Anniversary on 5/3/09

VOUCHERS: The Secretary stated there are no vouchers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Student membership/Student Programs Committee – No report at this time.
- Public Information – Chairwoman Martin stated she will prepare a flyer with regard to “Protecting the Hackensack River’s Category One Waterways” presented by Captain Bill Sheehan, of Hackensack Riverkeeper, to be held in Council Chambers of the Borough Hall in Emerson, on Saturday April 11th from 10 am to 12 pm. The invitation will be sent to adjoining municipalities, along with their Boards and Commissions.
- Development Issues – Ms. DiPaola stated the Hackensack Golf Club received a recent approval for an addition with renovations – they have also agreed to meet with our Borough Engineer – Maser Consulting, and residents in the area to address drainage issues. Mayor Lamatina would like the Commission’s input with regard to a “Green Element” to the Borough’s master plan. Chairwoman Martin will get in touch with Chairman Bischoff of the Planning Board to further discuss.
- Pollution Control – The Secretary stated she notified the Building / Property Maintenance Departments of the recent concerns that Mr. Worthington brought to the Commission’s attention – Quick Chek, strip mall behind bagel store, and rear of Paint & Paper.
- Wildlife Issues – No report at this time.
- Grant Availability – No report at this time.
- Earth Scouts – Mrs. Pierce stated there is a new leader for the local Boy Scouts, and she will reach out to her to see if they would be interested in becoming involved with environmental issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bottlecap / School recycling program – Chairwoman Martin stated she will contact Mrs. Espinoza, principal of the Memorial School, to see if they would be interested in the program, and provide her with the information on the AVEDA program.

Farmers Market – Mrs. Browne stated she is still soliciting vendors – the market will be open Sundays, starting June 28th, from 9 am to 2 pm, and volunteers are still needed to help set up and dismantle at the end of the day.

Pedestrian signs – Councilman Browne stated the signs have arrived, and we are awaiting directions from the Police Department as to where they will be placed.

Creative Outdoor Advertising – Councilman Browne stated a site survey has been scheduled for the placement of the containers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fundraising – Mr. Worthington has not heard from any one at United Water with regard to possible fundraising – Mayor Lamatina agreed to contact Mr. Joe Macula.

Town wide clean-up – Chairwoman Martin stated the clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25th from 9 am to 1 pm. A barbeque will follow in the parking lot of the Borough Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. DiPaola, seconded by Mr. Worthington, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Martin, Chairperson

Barbara Looney, Secretary