

**Emerson Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 24, 2015**

The meeting of the Borough of Emerson Environmental Commission was brought to order by Chairman Tom Browne, promptly at 7:30pm. The Chairman read the Open Public Meeting Statement, then requested the Secretary, Joan Dondero, to call the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Tom Browne, Vice Chair Margaret Boyce, Karen Browne, Pat Dinallo, Michael Griggs, Jeanine Lamatina,
Also Present: Joan Dondero, Secretary
Absent: Stephanie Clark, Tom Sudano, Rich Worthington, Council Liaison, Chris Nedilsky, Student Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2015 by Ms. Dinallo; seconded by Ms. Lamatina. Ayes: All Others. Abstain: Vice Chair Ms. Boyce. Nays: None. Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion to Open the Meeting to the Public by Ms. Dinallo; seconded by Mr. Griggs. Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None Nays: None. Motion carries.

No one was present in the public to come forward; the meeting was closed to the public.

Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public by Ms. Dinallo; seconded by Ms. Browne. Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None Nays: None. Motion carries.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mail is scanned, or emailed, to Chairs, Members, and Liaisons. Brochures and Agendas are handed out at the meeting.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The plants are done at the Butterfly Garden and it looks good. There are (3) three ornamental grasses planted; however, the Black-eyed Susans didn't come up. Also, they're some open areas that need to be filled in this fall since some plants did not come back.

About (5) five or (6) six people signed up for volunteer cleanup at the town picnic, (2) two of them are possible future teen liaisons.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission discussed a "Community Garden" comprising of a combination of fruits and vegetables. It was advised to have a talk with the teachers at the local schools to

ask the students if they want to get involved. Mr. Griggs has a template from other community gardens and mentioned that there are many grants available. The members said we can do this if we get the grant money. The residents of Emerson, including the seniors at assisted living or senior living, would be offered plots and reserve them if they're interested. A legal document will be made up for each individual plot, as not to plant anything "illegal". It would also be wise to have a custodian to maintain the plots that are not attended; some people steal another's produce. It's been known that some gardens are locked up to keep away the deer population. Vice Chair Boyce said that a person is feeding the deer in the Woods. Ms. Browne suggested a sign that reads, PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DEER!"

The back of Shop Rite by Kinderkamack Road is a disgusting mess. This will be mentioned to Mayor Lamatina.

The Temple Congregation B'Nai Israel applied for, and received, a county grant for supplies for cleanup in 2014. Monies were shared with the Environmental Commission. Is it possible that this could be repeated in 2015?

The Police Chief will have to be checked about the time frame regarding any future projects.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Mr. Griggs; seconded by Ms. Lamatina.

Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None Nays: None. Motion carries.

No July, 2015 Environmental Commission meeting; the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dondero, Secretary
Emerson Environmental Commission