

Emerson Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

The meeting of the Borough of Emerson Environment Commission was brought to order by Chairman Tom Browne, promptly at 7:30pm. The Chairman read the Open Public Meeting Statement (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), and then requested the Secretary, Joan Dondero, to call the roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chairman Tom Browne, Karen Browne, Pat Dinallo, Tom Sudano.

Also present: NJ Watershed Ambassador (Annabelle Bower), Bergen SWAN (Lori Charkey), Temple Congregation B’Nai Israel (Judy Newell, Victoria Pasher, Jill Blum, Arlene Fultonberg, Don Fultonberg, Dan Dank), Council Liaison Rich Worthington, Secretary Joan Dondero.

Absent: Vice Chair Margaret Boyce, Jean Sagredo

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to Approve the minutes by Tom Browne; seconded by Karen Browne. Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Motion to Open the Meeting to the Public by Pat Dinallo; seconded by Tom Browne.

Annabella Bower, from NJ Watershed Ambassador Program, hosted by NJ Department of Environmental Protection, handed out brochures (see Exhibit A) and gave a talk about the program, regarding clean-ups, rain barrel training, rain gardens, etc. It was discussed with the Environmental Commission that a clean-up date for Emerson Woods Kiosk, Main Street, will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 10:00am, with a rain date of Saturday, December 13, 2014 (see Exhibit B). Department of Public Works (DPW) will pick up the trash bags.

Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public by Tom Browne; seconded by Karen Browne.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Hackensack Tidelands (Hackensack Riverkeeper) brochures were handed out. 2015 Budget information was scanned to all members.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Wording for a sign for the Woods was discussed. “Emerson Environmental Commission, VOLUNTEER WITH US, and the email address” was a possibility. A logo with a white background and green and blue letters on a globe surrounded by a leaf or leaves; “EEC” in the middle of the globe was considered.

Motion to Reopen the Meeting to the Public by Karen Browne; seconded by Tom Browne.

Lori Charkey, from Bergen SWAN, spoke to the Commission about shared projects. She talked about stream restoration experience, taking pictures and sending them to NJ DEP. Her group is looking for ideas. They are trying to get someone to do actual labor; someone who has their own liability insurance. Blue Meadow Landscaping, Woodcliff Lake, came to mind, but the insurance may be an issue. Ms. Charkey stated that a specialized vacuum is recommended for some projects, but the possible rental fee is \$1,000.

The group from Temple Congregation B’Nai Israel presented a check to the Environmental Commission Chairman Tom Browne and members for \$150 (see Exhibit C). Ms. Blum applied for, and received, a county grant of \$300 for supplies, which the Temple graciously shared with the EEC. The Commission was certainly grateful. This was the result of the Temple’s Earth Day project clean up at the Woods.

Motion to Reclose the Meeting to the Public by Tom Browne; seconded by Karen Browne.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Browne asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Tom Browne; seconded by Karen Browne.

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

Next meeting date is Wednesday, December 17, 2014, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dondero, Secretary  
Emerson Environmental Commission

Attachments