



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 29, 2012

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Chairman Browne opened the meeting at 7:30 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. In case of a fire, follow the Fire Exit signs above the doors to your right and left in Council Chambers, and please exit calmly.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman Thomas Browne – Present
Ms. Margaret Boyce – Present
Mrs. Patricia Dinallo – Absent
Ms. Denise Lebrun – Present
Mr. Peter Martin – Absent
Ms. Jesse Maxon – Absent
Mr. Tom Reilly – Absent
Mr. Neil Schwab – Present
Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Present – arrived at 7:45 pm
Councilman Richard Worthington – Present

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on December 12, 2011 by Ms. Lebrun, seconded by Mrs. Boyce, and carried.

PUBLIC SESSION:

A motion was made to open public session by Mr. Schwab, seconded by Mrs. Boyce, and carried.

Ken Hoffman – 61 Emwood Drive – Steve Frassa and I are here representing the Shade Tree Commission – we will wait for the arrival of Councilman Rivers to discuss Broadway. With regard to the Community Garden at Centennial Park, Mr. Hoffman distributed photos of the park – one tree was planted last year – there is a little area we are considering the garden. We need a strong commitment to care for the garden, such as the seniors and possibly the residents of the Armenian Home. Mrs. Boyce would like to see landscaping, deer fencing, and an irrigation system. Mr. Hoffman stated the Shade Tree Commission does not have a common member from the Environmental Commission – Mr. Schwab agreed to volunteer as the common member. Mrs. Boyce requested additional garbage containers and signage in Emerson Woods, due to the excessive dog waste. Mrs. Zoeller stated that is a property maintenance issue, which should be brought to the attention of Mr. Sartori.

Councilman Scott Rivers – 17 Prospect Avenue – stated the Borough Council is supporting keeping a municipal-owned piece of property on the west side of town – known as Broadway – as open space, which runs parallel to the Hackensack Golf Club, and turn it into a "passive park". This would alleviate concerns that it could one day be developed. Councilman Rivers referred to the 2009 non-binding referendum, asking whether the Borough should pursue selling Broadway, was overwhelmingly defeated. Residents in the area expressed their concerns with flooding, reduction of open space, congestion, and disturbance of local wildlife. Councilman Rivers invited

members of the Commission to walk the property – identify things that need to be removed in order to make it safe for a natural park – pedestrian friendly, an alternative passageway through an area, such as Ackerman Avenue, that does not have sidewalks. Chairman Browne requested the Clerk obtain a copy of the survey that was done and email to all Commission members for a site visit. Councilman Rivers introduced to the Commission and the public Pat Palagonia of Oakland Avenue, who stated her concerns with keeping the site in its natural state, recent storm damage in the area, and a safe walkway for pedestrians – due to lack of sidewalks on Ackerman Avenue. Chairman Browne stated micro and green way grants may be available for this preservation.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Memos from Mayor Colina – dated 1/18/12 – Re: Appointments of Mr. Thomas Browne, Mrs. Margaret Boyce, Ms. Denise Lebrun, and Mrs. Dinallo
 Memo from PSE&G – dated February 2012 – Re: Freshwater Wetlands Permit
 2012 Bergen County Utilities Authority flyer – Re: Household hazardous waste collections
 Hackensack Tidelines – Winter 2011 edition

VOUCHERS:

\$43.47 – North Jersey Media Group – Re: 2012 meeting dates
 \$51.33 – Dart Computer Services – Re: new battery for laptop

A motion was made to approve these vouchers by Mrs. Boyce, seconded by Mrs. Zoeller, and carried.

NEW COMMITTEES FOR 2012: *Please volunteer as a Chair or Vice Chair of one or two committees:*

- Student Membership / Programs Committee – Mrs. Boyce
- Public Information –
- Development Issues –
- Pollution Control –
- Wildlife Issues –
- Grant Availability –
- Farmers Market – Ms. Lebrun and Mrs. Zoeller
- Bylaws – The Secretary will email all Commission members the Bylaws and Rules of Order
- Community Garden -

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joan Martin Memorial Garden – Ken Hoffman stated a grant maybe available for this, and we may need a commitment from the Borough as to the maintenance of the garden.

NEW BUSINESS:

At this time, Chairman Browne requested nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Commission. A motion was made to nominate Mrs. Zoeller, by Mrs. Boyce, seconded by Ms. Lebrun, and carried. A motion was made to close the nominations by Mr. Schwab, seconded by Mrs. Boyce, and carried. Mrs. Zoeller thanked the Commission for being named Vice Chairperson.

ADDED STARTERS: None at this time.

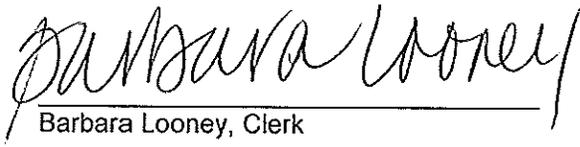
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zoeller, seconded by Mr. Schwab, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Browne, Chairman



Barbara Looney, Clerk