

**EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**EMERSON, NEW JERSEY**  
**APRIL 23, 2008**

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. Chairwoman Joan 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:**

Chairperson Joan Martin – Present  
Mrs. Karen Browne – Absent  
Mr. Tom Browne – Present  
Mr. Bob Cohen – Present  
Ms. Danielle DiPaola – Present  
Mr. Peter Martin – Present  
Mr. Richard Worthington – Present  
Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Absent  
Councilman Ken Hoffman – Present  
Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Present

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on March 26, 2008 by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Worthington, and carried.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

A motion was made to open public session by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Browne, and carried, with no comments.

A motion was made to close public session by Mr. Worthington, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Memo from Boswell McClave Engineering – dated 4/11/08 – Re: Pascack Brook
- Property Maintenance Report – dated 4/21/08 – Re: Dumpster screenings
- Notice of Speaker – Michael Dressler, Bergen County Surrogate – 4/14/08
- Invitation – Grand opening of shopping center – 5/1/08
- Memo from Joseph Tilli – received 4/23/08 – Re: Redevelopment
- ANJEC workshop – Preparing for State Plan Endorsement – 4/29/08

**COMMITTEES:**

- Student Membership / Programs – Ms. Lamatina stated there has not been in meeting in the last month. Chairperson Martin will send an email to Mrs. Rehak at the High School to discuss the topic for the next essay contest.
- Newsletter & Public Information – no report at this time.
- Development Issues – Danielle DiPaola, Richard Worthington, and Chairperson Martin – the Secretary stated the Planning Board, at its last meeting, heard an application for 260 Main Street – Kevin McGuinness – for a rear yard variance. The Home for the Armenian Aged is scheduled to appear on 5/1/08, and the Stavrou Family – 348 Kinderkamack Road requested an adjournment to meeting of 5/15/08.

- Pollution Control – Chairperson Martin reference the report received from Nelson Fullam and stated how terrific it is to see some progress.
- Wildlife Issues – Mr. Cohen stated he attended a conference – close to 100 people in attendance from Bergen County municipalities, fighting this problem. The true way of getting rid of them is by damaging the eggs. The geese lay their eggs between the end of April and the beginning of May – to stop the birthing or disrupt where they are staying, they will go elsewhere. Mr. Cohen also stated he met with Dr. Nisonoff and explained this process to him. The school has an air gun – the maintenance personnel fire off 2 to 3 times a week. Dr. Nisonoff advised Mr. Cohen that the art and wood shop departments are building “fake dogs” for use in the future.
- Grant Availability – Councilman Hoffman stated the Borough recently applied for a “safe routes” to school grant for \$46,000 for signage, sidewalk improvements, street linings and was turned down. The deadline may be extended, and if so, the grant application will be resubmitted. Mr. Browne requested Councilman Hoffman give him the contact information so he may follow-up.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

ANJEC workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> in Burlington County – topic for discussion is Preparing for State Plan Endorsement.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Electronics recycling – Chairperson Martin suggested a container similar to clothing containers that are located at local shopping centers. Mr. Worthington stated his concerns with someone dropping a television in that type, causing it to break. Mr. Martin stated that the Borough of Westwood always has someone at their facilities, and wondered if they had an electronics recycling bin or container at their location. Councilman Hoffman stated he would speak to Joe Solimando about this issue.

Town-wide clean up – Chairperson Martin stated perhaps next year we could combine this clean up with the clean up of Emerson Woods. Mayor Lamatina stated there was a low turnout of volunteers this year, and stressed the importance more garbage / recycling containers within the Borough.

Community Garden – Chairperson Martin will email all Commission members an article called “Gardenworks”. Mr. Martin stated he heard that Piscataway has a community garden and will look into this further. Councilman Hoffman stated there is one in Nyack and also in Piermont, New York.

Reusable shopping bags – Ms. DiPaola drafted a memo to send to the executive offices of Stop & Shop with regard to a contribution towards the purchase of these bags, with their logo and the Environmental Commission.

Farmers market – Chairperson Martin stated she received an email from Mrs. Browne and will distribute it to all Commission members, outlining where we stand at the moment. Councilman Hoffman stated he spoke to Joe Scarpa, who indicated the Borough, would cover insurance for the market – the location is still undecided. Ms. DiPaola suggested Emerson Plaza West on a Sunday – parking would not be an issue. Mayor Lamatina stated he and his wife have heard positive feedback with regard to the market.

**ADDED STARTERS:**

Councilman Hoffman stated the Arbor Day service will be this Saturday at 1 pm, and there will be a service in honor of Jim Wagner.

Mayor Lamatina encouraged all Commission members to be involved with the upcoming meetings on Redevelopment, which should begin in June, areas may be included – such as the DPW site and Ocker & Trapp.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Browne, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joan Martin, Chairwoman

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Barbara Looney, Secretary