

**EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**EMERSON, NEW JERSEY**  
**MAY 27, 2009**

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, May 27, 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 – Absent  
Mrs. Michelle Pierce – Present – arrived at 7:50  
Mr. Richard Worthington – Present  
Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Absent  
Councilman Tom Browne – Present  
Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Absent

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made to table approval of the minutes for the meeting held on April 22, 2009 by Mr. Worthington, seconded by Ms. DiPaola, and carried.

**SENIOR CENTER – MR. GUS CADEMARTORI** – No one was present – Mrs. Browne will contact them before our next meeting, in order to review the voucher program available through Bergen County for purchases at the Farmers Market.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

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

Ken Hoffman – 61 Emwood Drive – Councilman Hoffman distributed a proposal for Centennial Park – the Borough is in the process of coming up with ideas for the next application round of County Open Space Funding – the next application is due sometime in July. Some of the changes to the park would be making it more of an “environmental educational area” – such as a community garden, native plant bed, butterfly and hummingbird garden. New native plant and shrub beds, with new grasses, pear and cooper beach trees. There is a maintenance problem with overgrowth – plants not being trimmed back at the end of the year. The Community garden could be broken into 4 plots – for edible plants and herbs. Chairwoman Martin suggested the maintenance could be done by the Earth Scouts, and possibly the seniors who would benefit from the Community garden. Councilman Browne suggested some type of lighting, especially in the parking lot area. Councilman Hoffman stated the arbor does need some repair with new slats, and the roof on the gazebo should be checked. There are funds still available in a trust account from the Lions Club, who originally donated to Centennial Park. Councilman Hoffman has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow with Sal Dinardi and Joe Scarpa to come up with a cost to submit with the grant application. Mr. Martin expressed his concerns with rushing this process, and feels it is important to clean out the existing area first, then go forward with the new plantings.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Memo from Chairwoman Martin – dated 4/23/09 – Re: Green Element to Master Plan
- Memo from Chairwoman Martin – dated 5/14/09 – Environmental Commissions recommendations on the Green Element to Master Plan
- Email from ANJEC – dated 5/26/09 – Re: Commission training webinars
- Tank removal permits – 44 Highland Avenue and 19 Spruce Avenue

**VOUCHERS:** The Secretary stated there are no vouchers.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Student membership/Student Programs Committee – Chairwoman Martin stated she met with Mrs. Espinoza who was interested and receptive to the program. Mrs. Pierce stated the program will start in September at the Villano School.
- Public Information – Chairwoman Martin stated she will prepare a press release to the Community Life and Pascack Press in order to advertise the Farmers Market.
- Development Issues – Ms. DiPaola stated a sign application was approved for the Stavrou Family, 348 Kinderkamack Road, the new Celebrity Salon location, and the Board just received revised plans on the Inserra / Shoprite application for their addition and renovations. The Secretary stated she received a copy of an application submitted to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Sunoco station on the corner of Kinderkamack Road and Linwood Avenue.
- Pollution Control – Mr. Worthington stated Mrs. Zoeller's daughter was going to take photos of the locations he previously brought to the Commission's attention – Quick Chek, area behind Rosa's Pizzeria and Paint & Paper, and strip mall behind Paul's Bagel shop – there have been some improvements, and some areas are still sloppy. The Secretary will follow-up with the Building / Property Maintenance Departments.
- Wildlife Issues – No report at this time. Chairwoman Martin commented on large feral cats in her area, and questioned a line item on the 2009 budget for "Animal Control". The Secretary will follow-up with the Health Department. Mr. Worthington stated that someone in his neighborhood has a rooster.
- Grant Availability – Councilman Browne stated we discussed this under Councilman Hoffman's presentation and would like to see the small grassy area by the triangle, on Kinderkamack Road at the railroad tracks included – we may have to designate as a park in order to receive funding.
- Earth Scouts – Mrs. Pierce stated they sent a flyer to the High School and have no response. The information was also on the school email blast, and posted on the website, hopefully there will be more of an interest in the fall.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Farmers Market – Mrs. Browne stated the market will be open for 13 Sundays and we are still in need of volunteers – is in the process of putting together a schematic of the floor plan, and an advertisement flyer, which Ms. DiPaola agreed to distribute in Emerson and Oradell. The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to pay for an upcoming ad.

Creative Outdoor Advertising – Councilman Browne stated the sites have been picked – 4 locations – and we are awaiting installation.

Fundraising – Mr. Worthington stated he has not heard from any one at United Water with regard to possible fundraising, and I believe that our last meeting, Mayor Lamatina agreed to contact Mr. Joe Macula.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Town wide clean-up – Chairwoman Martin stated this was a great turn-out – approximately 100 people – the Commission will be in charge of the Emerson Woods clean-up, which will be scheduled sometime in November – hopefully we can get help from the Riverkeeper and Bergen Swan. Mrs. Pierce will also request help from the new Boy Scout leader.

Electronics recycling – Councilman Browne stated there is prepaid envelope system to return old cell phones, etc. You complete the envelope and designate who you would like to receive the funds – possible fundraising for the Commission – and Councilman Browne will forward the information.

Sustainable New Jersey – Councilman Browne stated he was contacted by Christian Jessen, of Veridian Consulting, who would like information on how a community forms a “Green Team”, which is decided by the Governing Body. Ms. DiPaola inquired whether or not the Borough website has a place to “get involved” – in order to get members of the public involved in something like this, to volunteer for the Farmers Market, and to possibly sit on Boards and Commissions.

**ADDED STARTERS:**

Chairwoman Martin requested the Commission's input with regard to letterhead and business cards for Environmental Commission – Ms. DiPaola questioned if there is any funds in this year's budget – Councilman Browne stated there was not.

Chairwoman Martin stated she will contact Joe Solimando and Joe Scarpa with regard to downed trees on the path in Emerson Woods.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

---

Joan Martin, Chairperson

---

Barbara Looney, Secretary