

EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 22, 2008

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. Chairwoman Martin opened the meeting at 7:40 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
 Mr. Tom Browne – Present
 Mr. Bob Cohen – Present
 Ms. Danielle DiPaola – Present
 Mr. Peter Martin – Absent
 Mr. Richard Worthington – Present
 Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Present – arrived at 8:25
 Councilman Ken Hoffman – Present
 Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Absent

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on July 23, 2008 by Ms. DiPaola, seconded by Mrs. Browne, and carried.

PUBLIC SESSION:

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email from ANJEC – dated 7/29/08 – Re: Environmental Awards
- Email from ANJEC – dated 8/5/08 – Re: ANJEC needs support
- Memo from Carol Dray – Borough Clerk – dated 8/6/08 – Re: Appointment of Karen Browne to a Regular Member
- Memo from N J Meadowlands Commission – dated 8/2008 – Re: Meadowblog.net
- Email from Farmers Market Today – dated 10/20/08
- Email from ANJEC – dated 10/21/08 – Re: Elements of Sustainability
- Inspection Report – dated 10/21/08 – Re: Dumpster screenings
- ANJEC Reports – Summer and Fall 2008
- Open Space momentum – Summer 2008
- Hackensack Tidelines – Summer 2008
- Tank removal permits – 348 Kinderkamack Road, 114 Highland Avenue, 984 Solider Hill Road, 185 Lincoln Boulevard, and 125 East Ackerman Avenue
- Thank you cards from Jane Dietsche and Peggy DiLello

VOUCHERS:

- \$270.00 – ANJEC – 2008 dues
- 155.00 – Pascack Press – Re: Ad Farmers market

A motion was made to approve these vouchers by Mr. Browne, seconded by Ms. DiPaola, and carried.

COMMITTEES:

- Student Membership / Programs – Ms. DiPaola suggested the recycling of bottlecaps, and distributed to the Commission a flyer. The students would collect bottle caps and bring them to school / or other designated collection area. The sponsor of the program, Aveda, would supply the school with special shipping labels in order to return the caps. Ms. DiPaola stated she would contact the Library to see if we can have a container there for collection of bottlecaps. Mrs. Browne stated there is another program, that gives you money back depending on the item – such as batteries and toner cartridges. Mrs. Browne will get further information. Mrs. Browne also suggested, as a part of Fire Prevention, students changing and collecting batteries from senior citizens within the Borough.
- Newsletter & Public Information – Chairwoman Martin stated that she has sent various articles for publication in the Emerson Eagle. Councilman Hoffman stated that the publication has some issues – such as printing articles submitted and getting back to Borough Officials.
- Development Issues – Ms. DiPaola stated Redevelopment hearings will continue on November 6th and an application was approved for the Emerson Hotel for an outdoor deck / dining area with ramp and canopy.
- Pollution Control – Chairwoman Martin referenced the report from Mr. Sartori with regard to dumpster screenings, and was happy to see progress.
- Wildlife Issues – No report at this time. Mr. Worthington stated the family of foxes is still near the Memorial School, and Councilman Hoffman stated he saw a fox near Continental Woods, and wild turkey.
- Grant Availability – Mr. Browne stated he “safe routes to school” grant has been reopened and he will follow-up with Joe Scarpa, and with the Board of Education. Councilman Hoffman referenced testimony from Mr. Jahr, Traffic Engineer from Maser Consulting, that if a traffic study is done, it would be very useful in applying for this type of grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Student Essay Contest – Chairperson Martin suggested moving this year awards to early next year – February or March. The Secretary stated her son is in Mrs. Rehak’s class and they have not been assigned any essay for the contest – there is \$100 in this year’s budget for the contest, and if we do not use the funds, we lose them. Councilman Hoffman expressed his concerns with the Commission not using the funds, we may not get them next year. Chairwoman Martin stated that in the past, prizes for the contest were a “Day with the Riverkeeper”. The Secretary will contact Mrs. Rehak for suggestions, such as a topic they are working on in class, or recycling.

Municipal Energy Audit - Mr. Browne questioned that status of this issue - Chairwoman Martin and Councilman Hoffman stated that this would have to be addressed in our 2009 Budget. Mr. Worthington stated he will follow-up with the representatives.

OLD BUSINESS:

Farmers Market – Mrs. Browne stated we have a better idea of what we have to next year, and need to get moving early. The produce vendor had trouble getting help, we also need to charge more of a monthly fee, have a larger advertising budget for next year to attract more vendors, and customers.

Pedestrian signs – Mr. Browne stated signs were received and they are missing parts – he will follow-up with Mr. Solimando.

ADDED STARTERS:

Chairwoman Martin stated the budget for 2009 will be on the agenda for our December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Martin, Chairperson

Barbara Looney, Secretary