

EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY
MARCH 26, 2008

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, March 26, 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 – Present
Mr. Tom Browne – Present
Mr. Bob Cohen – Absent
Ms. Danielle DiPaola – Present
Mr. Peter Martin – Present
Mr. Richard Worthington – Present
Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Present
Councilman Ken Hoffman – Present
Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Absent

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on January 23, 2008 by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Browne, and carried.

PUBLIC SESSION:

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

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

METRO ENERGY SOLUTIONS:

Mr. Peter Pirrello, Vice President of Business Development of Metro Energy Solutions was present. This is an independent energy services and consulting firm and we help our clients reduce their electrical, mechanical, and operating maintenance cost through installing and designing energy-efficient equipment in their facilities. Phase one of our audit would be inspecting all the major buildings within the Borough – such as the Borough Hall, Fire House, Ambulance Building, Library, Senior Center, and Department of Public Works – we will try to reduce their costs and make them run more efficiently. Quick paybacks of the audit include lighting, programmable thermostats, and the replacement of critical needs – such as replacing of an old boiler. Phase 2 of the report would include the bid specifications for each project, review the submissions, and make a recommendation for an award – including the rebate and grant applications – and be the project manager for each installation. There is a program coming out called the “Municipal Energy Auditing Program” – this entails the funding available which should be available in April or May – the Borough would have to budget fees for Phase One. Once the report is completed and delivered, 75% of the funds would be refunded through the BPU – if you go forward on the recommended projects, you will recover the other 25%. Mr. Pirrello stated the funding for this project will run out quick – and costs to do a school will be much higher than a municipality – due to the square footage of each building – and our company is already pre-qualified by the BPU. Councilman Hoffman questioned if this program will be sponsored every year by the BPU or is this a one time deal – Mr. Pirrello stated from what he has heard, this is the first time and the BPU hopes that it is such a success, that more funds will be made available.

Councilman Hoffman stated he would speak to Borough Administrator, Joe Scarpa with regard to the funding. Chairperson Martin, Councilman Hoffman, and all Commission members thanked Mr. Pirrello for his time this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Invitation – Bergen County Environmental Council – Re: Meeting 3/31/08
- Flyer – ANJEC – Re: Training to Protect Natural Resources
- Flyer – ANJEC – Re: 2008 Smart Growth Planning Grants for Municipalities
- Minutes – Green Cleaning Solutions Summit – 2/13/08
- Flyer – BCUA – 2008 Household hazardous waste collections
- Flyer – ANJEC – Municipal energy audits & emissions inventories – 4/28/08
- Memo from NJ League of Municipalities – dated 3/6/08 – Re: Web seminars for stormwater professionals
- Flyer – ANJEC – Re: Roadshow workshop – 4/2/08
- Flyer – Hackensack Riverkeeper – Re: Category 1 Waterways – 3/13/08
- Flyer – EcoHanger Program
- Hackensack Tidelines – Winter 2008 Edition

COMMITTEES:

- Student Membership / Programs – no report at this time.
- Newsletter & Public Information – Chairwoman Martin and Danielle DiPaola – Chairperson Martin referenced the ANJEC flyer with regard to the fundraiser at Whole Foods in Ridgewood, and encouraged other members to attend. The Secretary will submit the student essay winners for future publication. Ms. DiPaola questioned the proper disposal of prescription medicine, and Mr. Worthington inquired whether our local pharmacist would dispose of – and Mr. Browne agreed to speak to Kurt of Emerson Pharmacy. Mrs. Browne suggested having this issued addressed in an upcoming issue of the Emerson Eagle.
- Development Issues – Danielle DiPaola, Richard Worthington, and Chairwoman Martin – Ms. DiPaola stated the Home for the Armenian aged requested an adjournment to the meeting of 5/1/08, and a revised plan for the Stavrou Family, 348 Kinderkamack Road – Celebrity Salons – has been submitted – there are issues with parking, a cottonwood tree, and dumpster location. Ms. DiPaola also stated her concerns with disposal of the hair dyes. Councilman Hoffman stated the Armenian Home has issues with drainage, and may be located on a category one waterway, which would require a 300-foot buffer, and DEP approval.
- Pollution Control – Councilman Hoffman stated Nelson Fullam will be returning as the Property Maintenance Officer, and we will contact him with regard to dumpster screenings.
- Wildlife Issues – no report at this time.
- Grant Availability – Chairperson Martin and Tom Browne will look into grants for the Metro Energy Audit and Safe Routes to School.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson of the Commission – A motion was made by Chairperson Martin to nominate Mrs. Zoeller as Vice Chairperson of the Commission, seconded by Ms. DiPaola, and carried with all members voting in the affirmative, none opposed.

Electronics recycling – Councilman Hoffman questioned where we dispose of these items – Mr. Browne stated the BCUA does have designated drop off days, however, property owners do put their electronics out with the regular garbage. Chairperson Martin would like to see an electronics recycling container at the DPW – Councilman Hoffman stated the items would have to be kept

dry, and there is no indoor storage – these items are also addressed in the yearly garbage/recycling calendar that is mailed, and also included in the Emerson Eagle.

Town-wide clean up – Chairperson Martin stated this has been scheduled for Saturday, April 19th and will confirm with Officer McDermott of the Police Department, and representatives of United Water. Chairperson Martin encouraged all commission members to participate.

Community Garden – Mr. Martin stated more and more communities are participating – not just to add beauty and grow produce, but also to bring communities together. Chairperson Martin will email all members an article called “GARDENWORKS” – the promotion and preserving community gardening.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reusable shopping bags – Mrs. Browne stated there are loads of vendors who produce these bags, and found one that are made by people who have special needs – items that need to be addressed are price, size, flat bottom, canvas, or mesh. Ms. DiPaola stated she also researched this issue and found bags made of polypropylene, and the inside liner is removable so that it can be wiped down or washed. Mr. Martin suggested we solicit at least 5 local merchants and banks to contribute to the purchase of the bags – at no cost to the Borough. Councilman Hoffman stated he would speak with Joe Scarpa with regard to the financial contribution by an outside person. Chairperson Martin stated Shoprite and United Water have donated in the past, and will donate various items for the clean up.

Farmers market – Mrs. Browne stated “weights and measures” will have to be notified – we are interested in fresh produce, goods, and fish – if they are interested – electrical will have to be provided. The best hours would be from 9 to 2 pm – and we should have a meeting with the possible vendors. Councilman Hoffman suggested Mrs. Browne contact the Board of Education to obtain a “Use of Facilities”.

Fake dogs – no report at this time.

ADDED STARTERS:

Councilman Hoffman stated the clean up at Emerson Woods would be held this Sunday, March 30th.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Martin, Chairwoman

Barbara Looney, Secretary