

EMERSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
EMERSON, NEW JERSEY
JANUARY 23, 2008

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. Chairwoman Joan Martin opened the meeting at 7:35 pm, and welcomed new member Peter Martin, student member Lauren Lamatina, and Council Liaison Ken Hoffman. 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 – Present
 Ms. Danielle DiPaola – Present
 Mrs. Antoinette M. Germann – Present
 Mr. Peter Martin – Present
 Mr. Richard Worthington – Present
 Mrs. Lorraine Zoeller – Absent
 Councilman Ken Hoffman – Present
 Ms. Lauren Lamatina – Student Member – Present – arrived at 8 pm

ESSAY CONTEST:

At this time, Chairwoman Martin requested Laura Fontanet, Scott Avedis, and Delaney Smith come forward to read their essays to the Commission members and the public. Chairwoman Martin thanked the winners and all who participated in the contest.

MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting held on December 5, 2007 by Mr. Browne, seconded by Mrs. Browne, and carried.

PUBLIC SESSION:

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Memos from Carol Dray – dated 1/7/08 – Re: Appointments of Mrs. Germann, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Browne, Mr. Worthington, and Lauren Lamatina.
- Mayor and Council meeting dates for the year 2008
- 2008 Borough Closings in observance of legal holidays
- 2008 Council Liaisons Appointments
- Memo from RNN – dated 1/15/08 – Re: "I on the Environment Contest"
- Memo from Joe Scarpa – dated 1/22/08 – Re: Mandatory seminar on 2/22/08
- Email from ANJEC – dated 1/23/08 – Re: Clear air and fuels conference 1/24/08
- Tank permit – dated 11/6/07 – Re: 386 Kinderkamack Road
- 2008 Borough of Emerson Garbage and Recycling Calendar

COMMITTEES:

The following members were assigned to the Commission Committees:

- Student Membership / Programs – Lauren Lamatina and Karen Browne
- Newsletter & Public Information – Chairwoman Martin and Danielle DiPaola
- Development Issues – Danielle DiPaola, Richard Worthington, and Chairwoman Martin
- Pollution Control – Lorraine Zoeller and Antoinette Germann
- Wildlife Issues – Bob Cohen and Antoinette Germann
- Grant Availability – Joan Martin and Tom Browne

NEW BUSINESS:

Farmers Market – Mrs. Browne stated this is a slow time, however, she spoke to the Business Administrator in River Vale who gave her a contact number. In speaking with a couple of local people they are very interested in participating, and it sounds promising – produce, fish, and baked goods.

Green Bags – Mrs. Germann stated she spoke with the leaders of the girls and boys scouts – with regard to bag design, and there is a lot of interest. Ms. DiPaola stated when she attended the League of Municipalities back in November, she collected a number of brochures and will provide to the Commission.

Cardboard / recyclable hangers – Mr. Browne stated that steel hangers are not recyclable, and in speaking with a company in New York, they try to sell and distribute cardboard / recyclable hangers by giving and selling them to vendors, and by local sponsorship – such as PSE&G.

Town Picnic – Chairwoman Martin suggested we get brochures from United Water, PSE&G, Ecohangers, Bergen Swan, and the Riverkeeper. Mayor Lamatina will get a contact name at United Water for this information, and Chairwoman Martin also suggested contacting neighboring Environmental Commission's and invite them to participate.

Retailers requirement to take back plastic bags – Mr. Browne stated some communities, by ordinance, are requiring retailers over a certain square footage volume, to take back plastic bags. Shoprite now only takes back their own bags. Councilman Hoffman will check with Borough Attorney Phil Boggia to see if any other municipalities have this ordinance.

Geese – Mr. Cohen stated he would contact the Westwood Board of Education for further information with regard to "fake dogs".

RNN – Chairwoman Martin referred to the memo and Ms. Lamatina agreed to meet with the Environmental Club, at the High School, to discuss participation. Mrs. Rehak had previously expressed interest in an "outdoor classroom" which would encompass a butterfly / pollinator garden. Mrs. Browne stated there are grants available and groups that would offer assistance, such as local landscapers, for planting and recommendations.

Mayor Lamatina stressed the importance of garbage / recycling bins at the ball fields and has spoken to Phil Nisonoff about this issue. Councilman Hoffman referred to the Borough recycling center not accepting commingled items at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Home for the Armenian Aged – Ms. DiPaola stated the application is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Councilman Hoffman stated the Shade Tree Commission never received a Tree Management Plan. The Secretary stated she received a memo from Kathy Rizza and forwarded the same to the applicant's attorney. Mayor Lamatina

stated that during the application process, the Planning Board will address drainage, parking, landscaping, pavers, lighting, and encouraged the Commission's comments.

ADDED STARTERS:

Chairwoman Martin stated nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Commission would be at our next meeting.

The Secretary will distribute to all Commission members an updated contact sheet.

Mr. Browne commented on the parking of vehicles on the United Water property, on Glenwood Avenue, during an event at the High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Martin, Chairwoman

Barbara Looney, Secretary