

**MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
November 20, 2019**

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building. Chairwoman Stephanie Clark opened the meeting at approximately 7:43PM. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, the Clerk has notified The Record and The Ridgewood News of this meeting and notice has been posted in the Municipal Building.

Roll call was taken:

Chairperson Stephanie Clark	Present
Vice Chairperson Pat DiNallo	Absent
Kevin Leeds	Absent
Michael Casey	Absent
Michael Guarriello	Present
Walter Romanski	Absent
Kate Stutzel	Present
Councilman Ken Hoffman	Present

Chairwoman Clark asked if there were any comments, changes to the minutes of October 23. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve and record those minutes, which was made by Mr. Guarriello, second was offered by Ms. Stutzel, all were in favor.

BOARD BUSINESS

2020 Reorganization

Chairperson Clark told the members that she was hopeful that Ms. DiNallo, the Vice-Chairperson would monitor the January meeting, since she would be on maternity leave. She continued that the Mayor would be making appointments for the expiring terms, as well as the vacancies. Mr. Guarriello asked if it would be appropriate for him to write the Mayor expressing his desire to be appointed permanently to the Commission. Chairperson Clark and Councilman Hoffman both agreed it would be appropriate.

In preparation for the year 2020, Chairperson Clark wanted to set the calendar of meetings. She suggested the following dates:

January 22, 2020 (Reorganization)
February 19, 2020
March 25, 2020
April 22, 2020, which is actually Earth Day
May 27, 2020
June 24, 2020
July NO MEETING
August 26, 2020
September 23, 2020
October 28, 2020
November 18, 2020
December NO MEETING
January 27, 2021 (Reorganization)

Ms. Stutzel made a motion to approve the calendar dates, second was offered By Mr. Guarriello, all were in favor.

Community Gardens

Chairperson Clark advised the members that there had been a closing ceremony of the gardens at which time the plaques and decorative items had been removed and stored. Mr. Guarriello asked approximately what percentage of the plots had not been cleared by the assignees. The Chairperson told him the percentage was quite low, perhaps 4 – 8%. Ms. Stutzel stated that the cleanup was improved over previous years.

Emerson Woods

Chairperson Clark mentioned the woods and the native plants, how to identify them and educate the residents. She wondered if the Commission would have any ideas to be implemented during Earth Week. Councilman Hoffman told the members that the Shade Tree Commission would be happy to assist in identifying plants and trees.

Mr. Guarriello brought up the fence that had been installed in the Woods by Suez Water. The Chairperson said she would like to discuss that when the floor is opened to the members for general discussion. Mr. Guarriello stated that protection of water resources is a high priority for him.

RECYCLING

The Chairperson said she had been in touch with several of the merchants along Kinderkamack Rd in regard to recycling bins. Some had already been put out. Mr. Guarriello wanted to know about the follow through of waste removal. He was told the merchants used private sanitation companies and were responsible for the proper pick up. The Chairperson told the members they have to continue with their efforts of "Education, Involvement and Change" the Chairperson does not believe that, at this time, banning products would be the correct direction to take.

2020 EARTH WEEK

The Chairperson updated the members by stating she had been in contact with the various partners from last year and all were on board with similar programs. Details and timing would follow.

Chairperson Clark asked Ms. Stutzel about the garage sale and when she would like to have it take place. Ms. Stutzel thought Sunday (the last day of Earth Week) might be the best, as there would be less traffic.

MEMBER DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Stutzel said she would like further information on the fence that had been installed in the Woods. She said that the response she had seen on Facebook shows that the residents are angry, and she wants to know how to respond. Mr. Guarriello wanted to know if the fence was locked.

Councilman Hoffman replied the gate is not currently locked, nor does he believe it has been completed. Presently only a portion of the Suez property is fenced. Mayor DiPaola had stated that Suez is fencing their property in response to the many complaints about biker trails and the damage being done to the flora, fauna and water resources. He said this property would be completely fenced, similar to their other properties in Harrington Park, Closter and Oradell.

Ms. Stutzel wanted to know if Suez could develop their property and was told by Councilman Hoffman that the property is deed restricted and housing would not be allowed.

Councilman Hoffman continued that once the property is completely fenced in there would be arrangements for key access, again similar to other areas. Residents would have to apply. The fencing would only be on the Suez property.

Chairperson Clark stated, although incomplete, it is a start. She said the need to educate in regard to dog waste continues. And she hoped to soon have a poster available to post.

Open to the Public

Chairwoman Clark asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public, which was made by Ms. Stutzel, second by Mr. Guarriello, all were in favor. Seeing no public, Ms. Stutzel made a motion to close the floor, second was offered by Mr. Guarriello, all were in favor.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Clark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was made by Ms. Stutzel, second by Mr. Guarriello, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Marie Shust
Commission Secretary