

**MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
September 25, 2019**

This meeting of the Emerson Environmental Commission was held in the Municipal Building. Chairwoman Stephanie Clark opened the meeting at approximately 7:35PM. 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:

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

BOARD BUSINESS

Chairwoman Clark began by providing an update on Emerson's Community Garden. As discussed previous, the Commission aims to close the Garden in early November with a formal date to be announced shortly. The DPW has provided containers for composting and disposal, all of which are clearly marked. Ms. Clark thought a formal closing with each plot assignee cleaning up their beds would be a good idea.

Ms. Stutzel asked that more advanced promo be done in regard to applications and the opening for next year. Ms. Clark agreed, and responded that the applications would be closed once all the plots had been assigned, which, this year, had been in March 2019.

Chairwoman Clark said she would request bags for proper disposal of plants and other materials to aid in the season-end cleanup.

Ms. DiNallo told the members that the Compost Master she knew was unable to meet with us to review composting procedures. Chairperson Clark said she knew of someone who would be able to assist, to provide a 101 session next year.

Chairwoman Clark went on to address National Walk to School Day for October 2, advising the members that Emerson had officially registered for the event and is listed online as a participating New Jersey location. She stated that there were 5200 schools signed up for the event but only 5 in Bergen County, including Emerson. She then told the members that Mr. Gatens of the Board of Education was supportive and circulated all communications/promo assets provided. The Police Dept. was also notified of the pending activity, to help ensure pedestrian safety due to expected increased foot traffic.

Next item on the agenda was the concept of hosting a “Clean the Block” Party – our adaption of Park Ridge’s Mind the Curb campaign. It was proposed that this campaign could serve as a helpful tool to engage local business specifically, to gain their insight and participation around operating in a more green way. Members, Michael Casey and Walter Romanski, confirmed that they would co-lead this campaign, bringing ideas on how to best activate to the next meeting.

Mr. Romansky asked if there were any materials available that could be used as a basis for their flyer. Chairwoman Clark said she would email the current draft flyer for their reference. Mr. Romansky asked where a list of businesses could be found and was told to contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Clark asked that any feedback be brought to the next meeting, at which time a formal date would be discussed. Mr. Casey suggested in early November, after Halloween.

Chairwoman Clark then addressed the Responsible Pet Owner Campaign. She told the members that ideally the final flyer would be distributed and posted, but importantly, given to peers at the Board of Health to give with annual pet registration materials.

Mr. Guarriello wanted to know about additional signage reinforcing the fines that would be assessed. He asked if there was a program where residents/interested parties could donate money specifically for that purpose. Councilman Hoffman advised the members that a fund can be set up and Lauren Roehrer, the CFO, would have to be contacted to create it.

Chairwoman Clark asked for an update on the idea of hosting a Fall Cleanup, if there were any ideas. Ms. DiNallo mentioned there was a paper street near the golf course that should be targeted. She thought it would be a good project for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. She said there were cans, bottles and leaves. Councilman Hoffman reminded the members of the poison ivy in that area and the participants should be educated on the shape of the leaves and to avoid contact. Ms. DiNallo continued that there was sufficient parking in the area for the participants.

Chairwoman Clark asked if there was an area that might be appropriate for adults. Ms. DiNallo suggested the areas along the tracks, behind the various businesses including Stop and Shop. Mr. Guarriello asked about the school fields and was told it was a matter for the Board of Education.

Chairwoman Clark then addressed the Emerson Woods. She said a PDF guide of the area was in process, which would include "Did you know" items as well as do's and don'ts. Mr. Guarriello told the members that Councilman Hoffman has all the basic information and general description of the preserve.

Ms. DiNallo told the members that last year she had taken the School Environmental Club on a walk through the Woods and wondered if Mr. Guarriello, with his scientific background, would be interested in leading one in the future. Chairwoman Clark thought that might a good project for Earth Week, and asked Ms. DiNallo and Mr. Guarriello to work out a plan. She suggested that it include pictures, stories and appeal to the general public as well as the students.

Chairwoman Clark then encouraged members to provide ideas for next year's Earth Week for discussion at the next meeting. She reminded the team of last year's successful partnerships with the library, DPW, Board of Education, etc.

Chairwoman Clark asked Councilman Hoffman about the ownership of Arbor Day, moving forward. Councilman replied that since the Shade Tree Commission had been renewed, it would likely take back Arbor Day and hoped EEC and STC would work in partnership. An update would be provided at the next Commission meeting.

Chairwoman Clark told Councilman Hoffman that she had all the information regarding last year's event readily available and would provide a copy to the Shade Tree Commission if they would like. The Councilman thanked Ms. Clark

and told her the STC would be making spring planting plans during the winter months.

The Chairwoman advised the members that she would be on maternity leave in the early part of 2020. She asked that all ideas, suggestions be sent her especially for Earth Week.

Next agenda item, Ms. Stutzel spoke to her idea about reviving the town wide garage sale. She wanted to know if she could see if there was interest from the residents. She reviewed how a map would be created showing the various houses that were participating. There would be a minimal signup fee to cover costs of printing and advertising. Ms. Stutzel said she would do some research, but thought one central, promoted map to participating homes would work the best.

Chairwoman Clark then concluded by describing her recent meeting with Liz Morris, who works for several departments in the Borough and has extensive recycling knowledge. Ms. Morris would be pleased to meet with the Commission members to discuss the online tool known as the “Recycling Coach”, how best to recycle Styrofoam, etc.. Ms. Morris also advised Ms. Clark about the Bergen County free shredding day, and submitted a request for May 2020 – currently awaiting confirmation.

Chairwoman Clark did comment on the fact that the Borough picnic failed to offer proper recycling bins and support, and had already voice to Ms. Morris that the EEC would like to assist in this portion of the event next year.

MEMBER COMMENTARY:

Ms. Stutzel told the Board that the Governing Body had mentioned styro recycling at a recent meeting. Mr. Romansky mentioned the various grades of styro and how each grade is handled differently. Chairwoman Clark said the EEC would co-promote recycling and/or reduction of use of Styrofoam in upcoming efforts.

Mr. Romansky asked if there were any plans for electric car chargers in the Borough. Councilman Hoffman replied the architect for the redevelopment area intends to include some into the plans.

The Councilman did mention that Mr. Hoffman, the former Administrator, had previously mentioned chargers. Ms. Clark said that the EEC has no jurisdiction over the plans of the redeveloper, but hoped the Governing Body would follow up.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Ms. Stutzel made a motion to open the floor to the public, second was offered by Mr. Guarriello, all were in favor.

Mr. Brandon Pfeifer of 89 Pascack Ave approached the podium. He introduced himself and told the members he had moved into Emerson in April and would like to become involved in the community. Since he has a one year old daughter, he thought the EEC would be an appropriate venue.

Ms. Stutzel told the Commission that she had worked with Mr. Pfeifer while working at Columbia University.

Mr. Pfeifer told the members that he was impressed with the ideas and strategies that had been expressed during the meeting. He hoped he would have the opportunity to work with the Commission in the near future.

Since there were no other hands from the public. Chairwoman Clark asked for a motion to close the floor, which was made by Ms. DiNallo, second by Ms. Stutzel, all were in favor. The floor was closed.

Since there was no other business to discuss Chairwoman Clark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. DiNallo made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm second was offered by Ms. Stutzel, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted.
M. Marie Shust
Commission Secretary