

## Emerson Environmental Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

The meeting of the Borough of Emerson Environment Commission was brought to order by Chairman Tom Browne, promptly at 7:30pm. The Chairman read the Open Public Meeting Statement (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), and then requested the Secretary, Joan Dondero, to call the roll.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chairman Tom Browne, Margaret Boyce, Karen Browne, Pat Dinallo, Emma Ryan, Jean Sagredo, Tom Sudano.

Also present: Jill Blum, Social Actions Committee member (SAC) from Congregation B’Nai Israel; Secretary Joan Dondero.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to Approve the minutes of December 4, 2013, by Margaret Boyce; seconded by Karen Browne. Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Motion carries.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Motion to Open the Meeting to the Public by Karen Browne; seconded by Margaret Boyce.

Jill Blum, Social Action Committee member from a Temple Congregation B’Nai Israel, presented a project plan to help clean Emerson’s parks. She later requested Sunday, April 27, 2014, from 1:30-5:30pm, for the project. The Temple’s Committee will fill out and present the Grant for approval. Chairman Browne said that the Environmental Commission will coordinate with the Department of Public Works and the Police Department for the cleanup date. Ms. Blum stated that her Committee sends the kids into quiet areas, whereas, the adults in heavier trafficked places. Chairman Browne mentioned Emerson Woods on Main Street.

Motion to Close the meeting to the Public by Margaret Boyce; seconded by Emma Ryan.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Brochures were scanned and sent to all the members.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Boyce talked about the Swapalozza and the Bake Sale, which will consist of organic snacks. She would like to see the cooking classes become involved. A field trip for April 26 to 27, 2014, is planned and a graduate tree planting is planned for 2014. A log for the oldest trees in Emerson was discussed.

There are no members, no activity, in the Environmental Club. Chairman Browne & Ms. Dinallo suggested getting students involved, also the Boy Scouts. Ms. Boyce said that she will talk to the library and contact Westwood Environmental Club. The Explorers Club is always

looking for projects; Ms. Boyce will meet with the head/chair of the Explorers Club, Mrs. Piscinich, at the library.

Three (3) large rocks were put on a raised bed, for the Joan Martin Memorial Garden, at the Centennial Park. Ms. Dinallo announced that the cost for the plaque was \$436.00, plus shipping and handling.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Browne mentioned the Sustainable Arts Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation supporting artists and writers with families. Their mission is to provide financial awards to parents pursuing creative work. The foundation's goal is to encourage parents to continue pursuing their creative passion and to rekindle it in those who may have let it slide.

Chairman and Ms. Browne spoke about a spruce up for the Joan Martin Memorial Garden, at the Centennial Park, on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at 10:00am. The budget will be checked for needed mulch; other towns should be contacted. June 1, 2014 will be the ceremony date.

The Chairman cited that the trail should be recut and the clutter cleaned up at the Emerson Woods and the trail markers should be reestablished. Ms. Boyce remarked that the high school students may be able to make the signage, small signs, for Emerson Woods. The Shade Tree Commission did these years ago. A grant could be proposed for Arbor Day, April 25, 2014, to clean up devastated areas.

Chairman Browne asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
 Motion to Adjourn the meeting by Pat Dinallo; seconded by Margaret Boyce.  
 Ayes: All Others. Abstain: None. Nays: None. Motion carries.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 25, 2014, (changed from Wednesday, March 26, 2014).  
 (This meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.)  
 Next meeting date is Wednesday, April 23, at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Joan Dondero, Secretary  
 Emerson Environmental Commission