

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 3, 2026
REGULAR MEETING

The Public Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Norwood was held via Zoom on the above date.

Ms. Rosenthal stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of the 2026 Environmental Commission

Brielle Olshan
Karin Rosenthal
Phil Maljevic
Michael Redden
Caroline Nagy

Also Present:

Councilwoman Annie Hausmann
Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Ms. Olshan made a motion to approve the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Ms. Redden seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Community Events

Community events have been paused until the weather is warmer. Ms. Rosenthal said she will soon reach out to the school regarding arbor day.

Commission Goals

Ms. Rosenthal said she would like to discuss the Commission goals for the current year. Ms. Olshan said that the Commission has started great things in the past and would like to continue those. She would also like to find the status of the tree ordinance that was submitted to DEP and to see where the tree ordinance that was proposed by the Commission stands with the governing body. She would also like to incorporate the Shade Tree Commission into the goals. Ms. Volpitta will check on the Shade Tree and Green Team. Ms. Rosenthal feels the Green Team members can be used if additional hands are needed for events.

Ms. Redden said the Commission should be involved in the application to build two family homes on Railroad Avenue. She asked if this is Fair Share Housing and if it all

has to be in one location. Councilwoman Hausmann said it does not need Environmental Commission approval as it is before the Planning Board. Ms. Redden asked if the affordable housing will be built by Foxhill. Councilwoman Hausmann said she feels that it will be difficult to build because of DEP and wetlands. Ms. Rosenthal feels that as the Environmental Commission they should be able to give comments at the Planning Board meetings on applications. Ms. Olshan agreed that the Commission can make an official statement. Mr. Maljevic said that normally would be the representative that was on both Boards. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if anyone has received an update on the Deptuch matter. Mr. Maljevic will follow up tomorrow for an update.

Ms. Rosenthal advised the new members that we are a member of ANJEC and that they have a lot of resources on their website. If any member has not been receiving the ANJEC emails they can be added on. ANJEC has a check list showing what the Environmental Commission would be involved in. Ms. Olshan will send an updated email list to ANJEC.

Ms. Rosenthal informed the Commission that Mr. Loverich will be attending the March meeting to give a stormwater update.

Ms. Rosenthal said a new bill has been signed, Reduction of Food Waste, to promote composting. She would like the Commission to look into this further. Councilwoman Hausmann said there is a person who will come for free to a meeting to see if they could help with getting something in town related to composting. The DPW Recycling Coordinator can be invited to that meeting.

Ms. Rosenthal would also like to look at ways to improve communication. She has suggested an intern to be in charge of the Facebook page. Councilwoman Hausmann said to give Ms. Volpitta the posts and those posts should be shared with the Norwood Families page. Ms. Olshan said she would like to post the Zoom link to Facebook for the meetings on both the EC page, the Borough page and the Norwood Families page.

Ms. Olshan suggested connecting with other town Board and Committees to host a joint awareness event.

Budget

Ms. Rosenthal said the Commission has requested \$20,000.00 for the 2026 budget. They would like to purchase a bigger shed for the garden and expand on the events they host.

Planning Board Update

Ms. Volpitta advised the Commission that the Planning Board is having its Reorganization and Regular meeting on February 4th. The appeal that was discussed at

the December Environmental Commission meeting will be heard at the time. There is also an application that will be heard for 205 Railroad, to replace the existing two family home with two two family homes.

Council Liaison Report

Councilwoman Hausmann said the last meeting was a work session with not much to report on. She would like to follow up with the tree ordinance and contact the composting person to give a presentation. The Seniors Club is going to apply for an AARP grant to redo the bathrooms in the community center. Ms. Rosenthal suggested doing outdoor yoga. Councilwoman Hausmann said that Robert Westshelle will no longer be a member of the Commission and thanked everyone for their time. He enjoyed working with the everyone.

Ms. Redden made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Maljevic seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

Ms. Redden made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Ms. Olshan seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Redden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Maljevic seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Commission Secretary