

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 13, 2026
REORGANIZATION MEETING

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

Ms. Volpitta 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.

Swearing In of the 2026 Environmental Commission Mayoral Appointments

Michaela Redden – 3 year term to expire 12/31/2028

Dierdre Kessler –3 year term to expire 12/31/2028

Caroline Nagy – Alternate 2, 2 year term to expire 12/31/27

Roll Call of the 2026 Environmental Commission

Brielle Olshan
Karin Rosenthal
Phil Maljevic
Michael Redden
Deirdre Kessler
Caroline Nagy

Also Present:

Councilwoman Annie Hausmann
Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Ms. Rosenthal made a motion to appoint Ms. Olshan Commission Chair. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion. Ms. Olshan made a motion to appoint Ms. Rosenthal as Commission Chair. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote to appoint Ms. Olshan as Commission chair there were three nays and three ayes.

Ms. Olshan – Nay
Ms. Rosenthal – Aye
Mr. Maljevic – Nay
Ms. Redden – Nay
Ms. Kessler – Aye

Ms. Nagy - Aye

On the roll call vote to appoint Ms. Rosenthal as Commission chair there was one nay and 5 ayes. Mr. Rosenthal was appointed Commission chair.

Ms. Olshan - Aye
Ms. Rosenthal - Nay
Mr. Maljevic - Aye
Ms. Redden - Aye
Ms. Kessler - Aye
Ms. Nagy - Aye

Ms. Rosenthal made a motion to appoint Ms. Olshan Commission Vice Chair. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Redden made a motion to approve the 2026 Environmental Commission meeting dates. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Redden made a motion to approve the December 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Mr. Maljevic advised the Commission that Mr. Deptuch does not attend meetings and does not respond to emails and suggested he be removed as a member if he cannot attend meetings. The last meeting Mr. Deptuch attended was in December 2023. Ms. Volpitta advised that the Commission must have a Planning Board member also be a member of the Commission and there was no other Planning Board member interested in joining the Environmental Commission. Ms. Olshan said she would like Mayor Barsa to appoint members of the Environmental Commission to the Planning Board. Ms. Olshan stated that Mr. Westshelle has not attended many meetings and asked when Mr. Westshelle last attended a meeting. She also asked if being that he is no longer a resident, should he be recommended for removal as well. Councilwoman Hausmann said to hold this discussion until February and she will speak to him.

Ms. Redden made a motion to recommend to Mayor Barsa that Mr. Deptuch be removed for the Environmental Commission. Ms. Olshan seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Community Events

Mr. Maljevic said the hikes in general are a very good idea. The hike with Nature Marc was successful. He suggested having more special hikes, possibly once a quarter. Councilwoman Hausmann said her lifestyle has changed and its hard for her to get to the hikes. If the hikes are haphazardly scheduled we might not get the crowds. She

suggested tabling the hikes through the end of February and discussing at the March meeting.

Mr. Maljevic said the evening garden events have been great and very well attended. Ms. Kessler said Nature Marc was willing to host an event at the garden, one being about animals found in the garden. Ms. Redden did not see the need to combine Nature Marc with the garden events. Mr. Maljevic suggested having entertainment at the garden party. The possibility of resident karaoke was discussed.

Budget

Councilwoman Hausmann suggested asking for \$20,000.00 in the Commission budget. The garden is getting more popular and a larger shed is needed. This increase in funds would allow for the Commission to hire an outside vendor to set up the shed. Councilwoman Hausmann would like the Borough to purchase the ADA compliant plots and not have them come out of the Commission budget.

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.

Council Liaison Report

Councilwoman Hausmann said the Mayor and Council held its Reorganization meeting last Wednesday. Councilman Kim is the new Council President. She is no longer liaison to the Board of Health or DPW. Councilwoman DeBiosa was sworn in. WEDO made a presentation at the meeting in Councilwoman DeBiosa's honor. Ms. Rosenthal asked who the new DPW liaison was. Councilwoman Hausmann said it was Councilman Foschino.

Ms. Rosenthal made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Ms. Kessler seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

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

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

Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Commission Secretary