

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 5, 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
Michaela Redden
Deirdre Kessler
Walter Deptuch
Carolyn Nagy
Nancy Congiusti

Also Present:

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Ms. Redden made a motion to approve the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes. Ms. Olshan seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Stormwater Presentation

Mr. Loverich presented a slideshow and brief overview of stormwater runoff to the Commission. He explained there are two types of coverage and how runoff affects both types. This is taken into account when designing stormwater management. He showed examples of management systems.

Ms. Redden asked about the picture that was shown with the house that was mostly grass. Mr. Deptuch said developers take down as many trees as they can. As far of the drainage, the engineer figures that out. He feels the trees were left out of the picture so you could see the drainage better. Ms. Olshan asked if the green giants would be considered large trees. Mr. Deptuch said the engineer needs to make sure the right number of trees are added back in. It's a combination of the engineer, landscape architect, and homeowner. Ms. Rosenthal said at the moment we do not have an ordinance that requires replacement trees. Ms. Olshan asked if that would be the state regulations. Mr. Deptuch said it depends on the property. Mr. Deptuch said the state

came out with a model ordinance with is a good ordinance. Ms. Olshan said when the tree removal was approved there was no adequate remediation which is against state regulations. They do need a variance and it has to go to the Planning Board. There were 29 trees removed. That is above our ordinance and state allowance for removal. She asked if the Planning Board can give exemptions to state regulations. Mr. Deptuch said we are following the Borough ordinance and Mr. Regan should answer that question.

Community Events

Ms. Rosenthal said a hike and community garden event were rained out. There will be hike with Nature Marc on June 6th. Ms. Olshan suggested asking Nature Marc if he had a suggestion for the hike location and to also consider a nature walk at the nature center. Ms. Redden suggested hiking in Rockleigh. The hike will take place at 10am. Ms. Kessler will ask Nature Marc where the hike will be.

Ms. Rosenthal suggested scheduling more dates for a garden cleanup. She is available May 30th. This will take place 10:30am-11:30am.

Commission Goals

There was nothing to add at this time.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

Ms. Redden suggested comparing the model DEP ordinance to the proposed Commission ordinance from 2022. Ms. Rosenthal gave background on the proposed ordinance. Members of the Commission met with the governing body asking to strengthen the current ordinance. They have asked the governing body to not approve any clearcutting until the ordinance is strengthened. Ms. Volpitta was asked to advise the Commission if they will be presenting at the May 13th Mayor and Council meeting. Ms. Olshan asked to put out a post once it is confirmed this will be a discussion item on May 13th.

Budget

Ms. Volpitta advised there is no update at this time. The budget is being presented at the May 13th meeting.

Ms. Rosenthal advised the Commission that they submitted their budget request as well as a budget request for the Shade Tree Commission.

June Meeting Date

The scheduled June date is Primary Election Day. The meeting has been rescheduled to June 9th.

Planning Board Update

Mr. Deptuch advised that the Planning Board meeting is tomorrow night and there is one application for a variance to allow two houses on a property while construction is ongoing. The Board will also discuss the tree ordinance and housing plan. Ms. Rosenthal asked to have the Planning Board meetings Zoomed.

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

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

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

Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Commission Secretary