

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 17, 2023
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 Board:

Ms. Brielle Olshan	Present
Ms. Karin Rosenthal	Present
Mr. Walter Deptuch	Absent
Mr. Phil Maljevic	Present
Ms. Barbara Vanderbeck	Present
Mr. Kamal Hoon	Present
Mr. Jim Elling	Absent
Ms. Brigitha Tray	Present

Also Present:

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Ms. Vanderbeck made a motion to approve the September 12, 2023, Environmental Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Maljevic seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed, with the exception of Ms. Tray who was not present at the September meeting.

Community Garden Update

Ms. Rosenthal advised the Commission that the first frost will happen soon and the garden will begin to be cleaned up. She invited the Commission members to visit the garden to harvest the last of the remaining crop. It was a successful season and the hope to have more activities next year. Ms. Vanderbeck stated that she made multiple trips to the garden with Foxhill residents. Ms. Tray suggested bringing children to the garden. Ms. Rosenthal said the Girl Scouts had planted seeds and were very happy to come back to see the carrots they had grown.

Tree Ordinance

Ms. Tray asked what the tree ordinance was. Mr. Maljevic informed her that the Commission has been working on revising the current ordinance. They have looked at the old ordinance, along with the ordinances from thirteen (13) neighboring towns and have put together a draft ordinance that they feel is beneficial to the town. A presentation was given to the Mayor and Council and the Commission is now reviewing feedback and making changes to the draft ordinance. Ms. Olshan tabled the tree ordinance until the November meeting.

Community Events

Ms. Rosenthal noted that the community clean up event that was scheduled for the end of September had to be canceled due to the unsafe conditions brought on by the rain. The event will most likely be pushed back until the spring, as it is getting too cold to reschedule now. The Cub Scouts will be invited to the event in the spring.

Ms. Volpitta shared that Council President Hausmann advised her that she will be able to lead the hike this Sunday, October 22nd.

Ms. Rosenthal reminded the Commission that Norwood Day has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 28th, from 1pm-6pm and asked for volunteers for the Environmental Commission table.

Meeting Date

The November meeting date has been moved back to the second Tuesday of the month, which will be November 14th, due to the third Tuesday of the month being the week of Thanksgiving. Ms. Volpitta also recommended to change from the third Tuesday of the month as that date interfered with Council President Hausmann giving a timely Committee Report.

Mr. Maljevic made a motion to begin having meetings on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in December and continuing into 2024. Ms. Olshan seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

ANJEC Representative

Hana Katz, a Policy & Program Associate from ANJEC introduced herself and offered her assistance to the Commission. ANJEC has over three hundred (300) municipalities in their group, and they are made up of ten (10) women. They help the municipalities find grants, policies at the legislative level, public outreach, and outreach to students.

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Ms. Katz invited the Commission members to take part in the ANJEC networking events. Mr. Maljevic suggested having an event in or around the Norwood area as there are very few events held in this area. Ms. Katz said she is interested in scheduling a networking event in this area and bringing light to the suburban issues, not just city issues.

Ms. Rosenthal asked if the Commission could call upon ANJEC if we needed guidance with a specific problem or question. Ms. Katz informed the members that they could reach out at any time and ANJEC also does roadshows where they go to municipalities to give programs. Mr. Maljevic said he feels the number one (1) area that help is needed with this Commission is gaining members and community interest.

Mr. Maljevic invited ANJEC to attend Norwood Day. Ms. Volpitta will send a vendor table application to ANJEC and they are welcome to share table space with the Environmental Commission.

Planning Board Update

The application for 8 Piermont will be heard on November 1, 2023. The application would like to put on an addition, a porch, and a deck.

Public Comment

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

Ms. Vanderbeck 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