

Paramus Environmental Commission 2011 Annual Report to the Mayor and Council

Paramus Environmental Commission Annual Report Actions and Undertakings in 2011

The Commission held eleven meetings in 2011. The September meeting was cancelled due to storm damage at borough hall.

Commissioners Include:

Gerald Anthony, Chairman
Jorge Quintana, Vice Chair
Thelma Springer
Ed Onorato
Pat Verile
Joe Lagana
Maria Elena Bellinger

The meetings were generally well attended with Commission members, Council Liaison Cathy Bentz, high school students and Paramus High School AP Science Teacher Maggie Touloughian, and an occasional representative of the press.

The Paramus Environmental Commission either sponsored or was involved in the following events/activities in 2011:

Paramus Earth Day Celebration

In April, Paramus celebrated its Earth Day celebration sponsored by the Paramus Environmental Commission. Many people attended to learn more about protecting and celebrating our planet and enjoyed music, exhibits, workshops, shows, food and fun!

Distribution of Free Firewood to Town Residents

In conjunction with the Paramus D.P.W. Department and the Environmental Commission, the September 24, 2011 borough fire wood give away was a success. D.P.W. supplied six thirty-yard containers of wood and in less than two hours over 95 residents came for fire wood.

Fourth of July Parade

Once again, the Paramus Environmental Commission celebrated July 4th with a parade which helped spread important messages of conversation and environmental awareness.

National Night Out

The Environmental Commission was asked to participate in Paramus National Night Out on August 2, 2011. Commissioners Jerry Anthony, Jorge Quintana, Ed Onorato, Joe Lagana and secretary Jean Payoczkowski attended. Scott Gunther of Wild Birds Unlimited joined us in displaying bat houses, literature and information on Commission projects.

Campaign to Save the Paramus Wetlands

Construction of Bat Habitats for Town Parks

Awarding of Scholarships to Paramus High School Students

On June 9, 2011, the Environmental Commission presented four (4) scholarships to Paramus High School Environmental Science students. We wish them much success in their futures.

Whole Foods Eco Bash

On Earth Day, April 22, 2011, Whole Foods Market of Paramus, Bergen Town Center held an "Eco-Bash Event". The Paramus Environmental Commission was asked to participate with other vendors. Jorge Quintana and Ed Onorato attended for the Commission. The event was a huge success. Special thanks to Danielle Sandars from Whole Foods for the invitation.

Maintenance and Updating of the Environmental Commission Website

Details of these events/activities are available in the meeting minutes, on the Commission website (paramusec.org), upon request from the Environmental Commission Secretary Jean Payoczkowski, 201-265-2100, extension 898.

The Commission also was involved in promoting recycling in the Borough Hall, town and county parks as well as informing local businesses of their responsibility to recycle.

Many of the projects listed above will be on our agenda for 2012.

New projects under consideration include establishment of a "Paramus Farmer's Market" and increasing our educational outreach to the students of Paramus.