

**Meeting of the Montvale Environmental Commission
12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, NJ
Council Chambers at 7:45 pm**

January 18, 2016

Chairman Vogt called the meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:45 pm. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Record and the Ridgewood News, informing the Public of the time and place, according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L.1975).

The roll call attendance was: W. Vogt (Chairman, P), P. Cohen (Vice-Chairman, A), W. Antczak (A), D. Eichhorn (A), R. Hanrahan (P), R. Preston (P), L. Skoglund (P), J. Russo (Secretary, P).

Approval of the Minutes from the November 16, 2015 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 16th meeting was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Vogt congratulated newly elected Councilman Weaver, Council Liaison to the Environmental Commission.

Communication/Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

Natural Resource Inventory Committee Report

Chairman Vogt recommended that this committee be disbanded. R. Hanrahan felt that it should remain an active committee and that the research that went into collecting the data is valuable. The data can be shared electronically with the new Tree Ordinance Committee members. Chairman Vogt said he would inform the members of the new committee about the information that is available to them. In the meantime, the EC members wish to keep the NRI Committee alive.

Environmental Commission Issues List

This is an ongoing list of environmental issues at the Borough that require attention. All issues are forwarded to Property Maintenance Officer J. Fette. Chairman Vogt said that the list is not being updated regularly and that he is not sure if it generates any results. R. Hanrahan stated that he would like the list to remain active. The Environmental Commission will maintain this committee and monitor its activity over the next several months.

Tree Ordinance Committee Report

Chairman Vogt recommended that this Tree Ordinance Committee be disbanded. As previously reported, individuals other than the members of this Committee, who were either appointed or had volunteered, wrote a very basic Tree Ordinance without any input from the EC Tree Ordinance Committee.

This draft version was reviewed by the Planning Board, who recommended some changes. A revised draft is now in the works, again without involvement of the EC. Once this new ordinance receives Planning Board approval, it will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council for their consideration.

R. Hanrahan, who has chaired the EC Tree Ordinance Committee, strongly feels that once a tree ordinance becomes ready for adoption, it should also be reviewed by the EC. Chairman

Vogt said that there is no indication that this will happen. Therefore, Chairman Vogt asked for a motion to disband the EC Tree Ordinance Committee. A roll call vote was taken, with a unanimous vote for disbandment.

Applicants

Jovanoski Residence: 154 Spring Valley Road (Block 301/Lot 5)

The homeowner, Mr. Jovanoski, presented amended landscaping plans (revision date: 12/01/15) for a single family home. The new plans satisfied all Borough Code requirements. Chairman Vogt asked for a motion to approve the amended plans. L. Skoglund made a motion, with R. Preston as the second. The Secretary took a roll call vote, with all members approving the plans. An approval letter will be emailed to the applicant and all involved individuals.

Balandza Construction: 99 Spring Valley Road (Block 403, Lot 2)

C. Balandza presented amended landscaping plans (revision date: 11/23/15) for twelve townhouse condominiums. The applicant had made all changes to the landscaping plans that the EC had previously recommended. Chairman Vogt asked for a motion to approve the amended plans. R. Preston made a motion and L. Skoglund seconded it. The Secretary took a roll call vote, with all members approving. An approval letter will be emailed to the applicant and all involved individuals.

Meeting Opened to the Public

A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Hanrahan. Public did not wish to be heard.

Meeting Closed to the Public

A motion to close the meeting to the Public was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston.

Planning Board Liaison Report

Chairman Vogt reported on the following:

- The Planning Board approved several use permit applications.
- A resolution for 8 Rutherford Place's variance relief and major soil moving application was approved.
- A resolution for 69 Montvale Avenue for a major soil moving application was approved.

Inspection

- **78 Kinderkamack Road (former address):** The landscaping was found to be in compliance. Chairman Vogt thanked L. Skoglund and W. Antczak for their assistance. An approval letter was sent to the appropriate individuals by Chairman Vogt.

New Business

Chairman Vogt said that Mayor Ghassali and he had interviewed Richard Johnson for the EC Alternate Position #1. At the February 9th Mayor and Council meeting, Mayor Ghassali will seek Council approval and then officially appoint R. Johnson to the EC.

Chairman Vogt said that there will be changes coming from the Planning Board regarding landscaping plan approvals by the EC.

Old Business

The Environmental Commission's Alternate #2 position remains vacant.

Adjournment

Chairman Vogt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by R. Preston and seconded by L. Skoglund. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for the second Monday of the month, February 8th. Members will be emailed in the event the meeting is cancelled. The agenda will be posted on the Borough website. Members are reminded to notify Chairman Vogt and the Secretary if they are unable to attend.