

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

### **Meeting Date/Time:**

Monday, November 19th

### **Meeting Location:**

Executive Council Chambers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale

### **Open Public Meeting Statement:**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Bergen Record and/or The Ridgewood News, informing the public of the time and place according to the provision of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1976)

### **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Hanrahan

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Carly Del La Hoz, Daniel Eichhorn, Chairman Robert Hanrahan, Richard Johnson, Mairead Jensen Melinda Kelly, Lisa Skoglund, Randy Preston, Council Liaison Koelling

**Absent:** Annmarie Russo

**Approval of Minutes** – October minutes- A motion to approve was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Eichhorn.

**Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items** – A motion to open was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Preston.

**Meeting Closed to Public-** by a motion by Mr. Eichhorn and seconded by Richard Johnson.

### **Communication/Correspondence:**

### **New Business:**

### **Old Business:**

1. Pascack Trail Plan from NYNJTC
  - a. We have received the final trail plan from NYNJTC
  - b. A meeting has been set up with NYNJTC on 12/11/18 to present the plan to the mayor
    - i. The aim of the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> is to seek approval of the plan
  - c. Funds have been procured for the project
  - d. Trail blazing is planned to start in spring 2019
  - e. Removal of large fallen trees is planned to be done prior to trail blazing
2. Swim Club Property
  - a. The idea of planting wildflowers in the empty field as construction of the trail takes place was been suggested
  - b. Pavilion/Gazebo addition to Swim Club Lot
    - i. The concept of a gazebo like the one in Westwood was suggested
    - ii. It would be constructed in the lot where the swim club used to be
    - iii. No design has been created, but the EC is thinking of ideas for next meeting
    - iv. The gazebo could be used for events, specifically live music, so power would be needed
  - c. Community Garden Idea
    - i. A community garden is purposed to be implemented in the swim club lot
    - ii. Next step is to seek a volunteer management organization
3. Tree Removal: 73 Montvale Ave
  - a. The owner wants to remove 11 trees from the property

- b. 9 two inch pink dogwoods are to be added to the property as noted by the drawing provided by the resident
  - c. Trees have been removed prior to EC approval, but since this is the first official resident to be processed under the new tree ordinance a warning was given but no other action is to be taken unless there is another offence
  - d. A vote was taken to approve the application
    - i. There was unanimous approval from Carly De La Hoz, Daniel Eichhorn, Chairman Robert Hanrahan, Mairead Jensen, Richard Johnson, Melinda Kelly, Randall Preston, and Lisa Skoglund to approve the removal of the 11 trees with remediation as explained.
    - ii. Chairman Hanrahan will prepare a recommendation letter for the building department within 48 hours.
4. Environmental Learning Center
- a. The path was covered in algae and very slippery
  - b. DPW applied a mixture of chlorine and water to kill the algae
  - c. There was a noted improvement
  - d. Ongoing annual maintenance is recommended
5. Annual Budget Review of 2019
- a. There will be room in the budget for the EC to attend conferences in 2019, as well as, purchase any literature or subscriptions that will aid the EC in improving Montvale
6. Boswell Engineering
- a. They will work with the EC on two major projects
    - i. Dredging of Huff Pond as well as repairs
    - ii. Conducting a survey for the proposed trail
  - b. A meeting will be held with them on 11/27/18 at 2 PM at the CC
7. Plastic Bag Initiative
- a. Carly attended the ANJEC meeting to learn more about regulation of single use plastic bags
  - b. The EC should reach out to major retailers to see what their opinions are about this
  - c. ANJEC provided an outline ordinance which the EC can use to create a “mock up” of an ordinance for Montvale
8. Activity List
- a. A kiosk is proposed to be added at the entrance of the Environmental Learning Center
    - i. The kiosk can have a logbook to write in
    - ii. A kiosk can also be added to the entrance of the proposed trail at the swim club
  - b. The municipal patio action item has been removed from the list
  - c. An investigation into bike lanes / bike trails has been added to the list
  - d. Tree ordinance has been removed from the list
  - e. A meeting will be set up with John DePinto to talk about open space in Montvale

**Council Liaison Koelling Report - None**

**Planning Board Report – Annmarie Russo absent.**

**Adjournment-** At 9:20PM a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Eichorn and seconded by Richard Johnson all in favor stating aye.