

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, August 15, 2022 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Go to www.zoom.us click JOIN A MEETING and enter the meeting number shown below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89022836449?pwd=RHpsN3AyNGxxRFRNc3NMR2xhc2Fkdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 2283 6449

Passcode: 859638

One tap mobile

Or by phone: US toll call: + 1 929 436 2866

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)

Roll Call:

Members: Lisa De Pellegrini(P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(P), Mairead Jensen(P), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by R. Preston and seconded by L. De Pellegrini.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items - A motion to open was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston.

Meeting Closed to Public - A motion to close was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. DePellegrini.

New Business:

- Tree Removal Permit Request – 25 Hickory Hill, Block 1803, Lot 7
 - Request started with planning/building department back in April. Homeowner is putting in a new circular driveway.
 - 3 Maples, 3 Cherry, 2 Ash One Tulip Poplar and one Black Oak is being removed.
 - Some of the trees are rotted and pose a threat.
 - Tree to be replaced with 14 Norway Spruces and 25 Green Giant Arborvitae.
 - Norway Spruces are being scattered around as an ornamental shade tree.

Feedback from EC Members:

- Homeowner is removing shade trees and are replacing them with arborvitae, not shade trees.

- Tree ordinance requires a 1 to 1 replacement without specification to species.
- We can recommend for replacement varieties such as Red Maples and Linden trees.

Approval of tree removal request for 25 Hickory Hill, Block 1803, Lot 7: A roll call vote was made and approved the request as follows: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Antonio Vozzolo (yes) Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)

- Tree Removal Permit Request – 13 Main Street
 - Contract purchaser in attendance. He is a builder working for many years in Montvale and surrounding towns.
 - Property is a single home on two lots. Subject to a 2 lot subdivision. 125- x 120 deep.
 - Footprints of houses are similar.
 - 2 x 3 boulders with 6 foot arborvitae proposed in between homes for screening.
 - Shade trees (mixed varieties), not currently identified will be planted for variation in color.
 - Hedges to be planted to the right of the front door. The left sides of the front of the homes will be more elaborate.
 - Trees on street will 2.5 inch caliper and others will be 2 inch caliper. Varieties will depend on time of year planted and stock available.
 - One large Oak tree is being removed and some smaller Maples and Pines will be removed.
 - Perimeter landscaping will remain.
 - All trees to be removed are currently flagged.
 - Replanting anticipated for next spring.
 - EC members suggestions for shade trees – Linden and Maples; specifically Red Maples.
 - R. Hanrahan: Request that owner will update the map to be specific with species and present to the EC.

Approval of tree removal request for 13 Main Street: A roll call vote was made and approved the request as follows: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Antonio Vozzolo (yes) Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)

- Category One, Riparian Zone and Wetland Protection Ordinance Discussion
 - Tomorrow night R. Hanrahan will be speaking to Planning Board about the subject of riparian zones and waterways.
 - Here in Montvale we have 7 category one waterways. Over 20% of Montvale is DEP Regulated land.
 - Any tributary off of a category one waterway is considered a category one waterway.
 - These waterways and tributaries have been determined to be of high value, supporting drinking water and fish.
 - There are multiple DEP regulations in place concerning waterways in Montvale.
 - The significant impervious surfaces in place around these waterways has contributed to water and wildlife degradation.
 - 300 feet away from the bank of the C1 waterway is the riparian zone.

- Violations of DEP regulations is contributing to the loss of water quality and increased flooding.
- Many residents and contractors are not aware of DEP regulations.
- The Mayor suggested we look into writing an ordinance. R. Hanrahan sent out a draft ordinance.

Feedback from the EC Members:

- Suggestion to notify residents once the ordinance has been approved.
 - Suggestion to notify homeowner of a category 1 designation in relation to their property.
 - Consider grandfathering properties where construction has already been built.
 - Consider allowances for things such as decks.
 - R. Hanrahan suggests an ERI(Environmental Resource Inventory)
 - Every block and lot would have an indicatory saying it has C1 riparian wetland property, or neither. Realtor would be able to look and see a designation on the property.
 - R. Hanrahan suggests EC members review the draft ordinance and provide feedback at next meeting.
- Bat Education Program - Proposed date of September 18, 2022 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
 - Cost is \$ 375.00 to bring Joe D'Angeli a licensed Chiropterologist bat expert with helpers.
 - L. De Pellegrini states that he comes and brings bats, flying foxes, will bring t-shirts and bat houses to sell.
 - The program starts inside with a presentation and then moves outside for a short walk with an echo locator. We find bats outside and then come back in and feed the bats he has brought for his presentation.
 - R. Hanrahan - We will need help from at least 4 EC members. Please let Ellen know if you can help with the program beginning around 6 p.m.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Still collecting wood.
 - The boy scouts will assemble the bat houses in September.
 - We will distribute them to residents in the spring.
 - R. Preston suggested asphalt shingles on roof.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - The damaged bench on the trail is on backorder and will be delivered sometime in September.
 - We are waiting for ANJEC to give us recommendations on contractors to help with the erosion problem. We need experts in to get a short term fix in place.
 - Long term solution will be in concert with Recreation Center.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Maired Jensen)
 - M. Jensen and R. Preston have done a great job transporting plastic bags to Stop and Shop.
 - Volume is waning.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Waiting for borough inventory of vehicles.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan) – on hold

- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
 - Plan is still being developed.
 - B. Davis of the NJ Land Conservancy presented progress to the Mayor and Council.
 - Will also be presented to the Planning Board.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - We have not been contacted by the DOT.
 - Suggest that the Mayor contact Josh Gottheimer to try to gain movement on the initiative.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan/R. Preston)
 - Will take some pictures of potential locations and present to the EC members for input.
- Communication about Tree Ordinance to New Families/ New Resident Welcome Mailer (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Currently, nothing is being mailed out by the borough.
 - The Mayor stated that a community mailing to new residents will be reinstated.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
 - There are some rotted 2 x 6 wood planks on the trail.
 - There are boy scouts who need environmental conservation hours and will replace the planks.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- Discussion about the borough purchasing 28 acres of property on Summit Avenue for \$ 4,500,000.00.
- 11 acres are wetlands and 17 acres are buildable.
- Possible location for a community center.
- Last week met with local groups on community center discussion.
 - All of the groups (scouts, seniors, etc.) requested 10x10 storage units.
 - Please forward any community resident ideas to C. Roche.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- North Market/Wegmans location: The planning board approved the Valley Medical Building, as a mixed use location (retail). Of note is potential issues with traffic.
- Former Western Union building location: Will be redeveloped. Left side will be demolished and replaced with a rehabilitation center. Right side of building structure will remain.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. DePellegrini all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, September 19, 2022