

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, October 17, 2022 – 7:45pm

### Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86136636877?pwd=eGlBdGdkUFZUTXI4YmV1T05wYXZ6UT09>

### Join by phone/Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US

### 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(A), 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** – September 19, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. DePellegrini.

**Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items-** A motion to open the meeting was made by L. Skoglund and seconded L. DePellegrini.

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

### New Business:

- Summit Avenue Open Space Land Purchase
  - An agreement to purchase has been reached by Mayor and Council and property owner.
  - An offer has been made and accepted.
  - The real estate closing will take place in approximately 60 days.
  - The property has a large portion of wetland which is unbuildable.
  - The mayor has requested EC involvement in the project moving forward.
- Flower Garden

R. Hanrahan and E. Riccardi met with Girl Scout leader Stephanie Holden who has an interest in initiating a planting project to be started in the spring.

R. Hanrahan, E. Riccardi and S. Holden walked through the trail to discuss options and potential site locations. Top consideration for location is next to Huff pond behind the fence.

- Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)
  - Collier Engineering will be working on an ERI.

- The NJ Land Conservancy will not be involved with the ERI. They are still moving forward toward completion of the Open Space Plan.

### **Old Business:**

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
  - L. DePellegrini has been in touch with the Girl Scout leader Dina Pawlyk regarding the pollinator garden and preparation for the winter.
  - L. DePellegrini will meet with her to go over what needs to be done.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - R. Hanrahan will be meeting tomorrow morning with the contractor to discuss the installation of plantings.
  - We still have a large sum of money remaining to complete the mandatory DEP planting as well as additional planting.
  - It is currently too late in season to plant. We will revisit for the spring.
  - The trail and pond are in good shape.
  - Discussion is ongoing to decide who will maintain the trail and Huff Pond locations on an ongoing basis.
  - The replacement bench for the one previously broken has been delivered and installed by R. Hanrahan.
  - The DPW picked up the old broken bench.
  - A family in town reached out regarding a memorial bench donation. Michael Lamendola and his son Brian Lamendola would like to donate a bench in honor of their wife and mother respectively.
  - R. Hanrahan met with them to discuss possibilities.
  - They will send us the proposed details with engraving.
- Montvale Street Fair, Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - We have EC representation/coverage until 1:30p.m.
  - We need EC member assistance after 1:30 p.m. Please reach out to R. Hanrahan or E. Riccardi if you are able to help.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Maired Jensen)
  - Incoming volume of bags has slowed.
  - Volume is less than 50% of what we were collecting this time last year.
  - We are working towards our fifth bench earned through the Trex recycling program.
  - There is still a large volume of bags being collected at borough hall.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)
  - There are many electric vehicles available on the market for purchase.
  - Ford Lightening is approved for police use.
  - Further discussion is required regarding specific goals on replacement.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
  - A, Vozzolo has been in contact with the DOT.
  - Working on getting the discussion up and running.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan)

- The additional signage ordered has arrived.
  - R. Preston and R. Hanrahan will provide photos of signage locations.
  - The DPW will install the signs.
  - We will provide the Mayor and Council with locations prior to installation.
  - E. Riccardi and R. Hanrahan will work on the Tree City Renewal.
- New Community Center discussion (Robert Hanrahan/C.Roche)
    - C. Roche – all information has been sent to our engineer.
    - The borough would like to incorporate everyone’s *wish list* into a cohesive plan.
    - We have are awaiting feedback from the engineers.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
    - Environmental center trail has been repaired to alleviate tripping hazards.
    - Seeking a scout to volunteer to install placards along the trail explaining tree species.
- Category One, Riparian Zone and Wetland Protection Ordinance Discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
    - R. Hanrahan presented to the Mayor and Council on DEP protected land in our municipality.
    - Thank you L. DePellegrini and R. Preston for joining the meeting.
    - The presentation was well received from an informational standpoint.
    - Members present were surprised to learn that we have such a large percentage of protected land.
    - The draft communication has been updated.
    - R. Hanrahan asked Mayor Ghassali to re-forward the communication to council members for feedback and directions on how to best disseminate the information.
    - DEP is asking municipalities to write code and enforce it. The purpose is to educate the public regarding water protection rules and put some enforcement in place at a local level.
    - Other municipalities have a wetland ordinance in place already.
    - Target goal for dissemination of information to residents: Prior to next EC meeting.

**Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche**

- All information to report has been addressed above.

**Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli**

- We received several use permit applications.
- There are 8 use permits on the agenda for tomorrow evenings meeting.

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

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, November 14, 2022**