

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, January 9, 2023 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82857633922?pwd=NDZBM2RJTWWh0eG1SMnV2KzRVT3pOQT09>

Join by phone/Dial by your location

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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(A)

Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston.

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

Lou Baldanza present:

- Resident of Montvale present as an observer with interest in meeting the EC and potentially joining the committee.
- Has been instrumental in his work and commitment to the NJ trail conference.
- He is a retired home builder and previously served on the Bergen County Planning Board.
- Currently collaborates with the New Jersey Trail Conference as a trail maintainer on the Neversink Gorge (Neversink River outside of Monticello) and a trail supervisor for trail conference.
- Works to keep 15 miles of trails open and also works to build some new trails.

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

Communication/Correspondence:

- Montvale Clean Up Day – 2023
 - The EC has been asked to confirm a date for Clean Up Day 2023 with a suggestion of April 22, 2023
 - Lisa Loranger, Director of Recreation has offered to help us with clean up day.
- Thank you to Lisa De Pellegrini and Lisa Skoglund for representing the EC at the Street Fair. T

- Residents showed a lot of interest in the wetland handout.
- Thank you to Lisa Skoglund for leading the January EC monthly meeting. She did an excellent job.

New Business:

- Donation of Bench on Memorial Trail
 - A resident family has donated a bench in memory of a family member. It will replace an old bench that was rusted and broken.
 - The donation has been accepted by the Mayor and Council.
 - The borough will provide maintenance of the bench.
- Barbara Davis of the NJ Land Conservancy
 - As pre-meeting ERI discussion with B. Davis.
- Girl Scout garden/planting project – Huff Pond
 - The garden will be 8 x 10 feet in area and planted with perineal plantings.
 - The location will border Huff Pond.
 - One of the seniors reached out to R. Hanrahan offering assistance on the project.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini) No news to report. Project is on hold until the spring.
 - Update on Pollinator Garden Project (Lisa De Pellegrini) – No news to report. Project is on hold until the spring.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan suggests we officially name the trail.
 - We planted 11 evergreens between the trail and the rear of the recycle center.
 - They are 4 to 5 in size/green giant arborvitae which will grow between 2 to 3 feet a year.
 - We will have the contractor giving us guidance in the spring.
 - Suggestion to install watering skirts. Plastic/rubber skirts that fills with water and seeps out over time.
 - The DPW has agreed to blow the trail at the end of the season.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Maired Jensen)
 - We just completed another 6 month plastics recycling program.
 - We can think about starting up another cycle.
 - R. Hanrahan asks EC members to please assist with transporting plastics from borough to Wegmans after the meeting. Any assistance with maintaining the program at borough hall would be welcome and greatly appreciated.
 - R. Zitelli suggests some variety of paving at the recycling center where the yard waste is deposited. Suggests pea gravel due to riparian zone/wetland concerns.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo) – No news to report.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan) – No news to report.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Maired Jensen/Robert Hanrahan) - as per pre-meeting ERI discussion with B. Davis.
- Environmental Resource Inventory (Robert Hanrahan) – as per pre-meeting ERI discussion with B. Davis.

- Summit Avenue Open Space Land Purchase (Robert Hanrahan/Chris Roche) – No news to report.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Working on making a connection with the DOT.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Preston and R. Hanrahan will take some photos of locations for signage to present to Mayor and Council for approval.
 - The DPW will install the signs.
- Communication about Tree Ordinance to New Families/ New Resident Welcome Mailer (Robert Hanrahan)
 - This can be an avenue to communicate information to new resident.
 - The recycle coach tells us and the schedule for garbage and recycling pickup.
- New Community Center discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Chris Roche) – No news to report.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
 - The DPW is not currently doing maintenance on the Environmental Learning Center trail.
 - There was an idea/suggestion to put together a subcommittee to help to maintain the trails.
 - Possible name of the subcommittee; the Montale Trailblazers.
- Category One, Riparian Zone and Wetland Protection Ordinance Discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan requests the EC to provide feedback on the most recent draft.
 - The Mayor suggested including a shortened version on the website.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche (absent)

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Montvale Grove, LLC submitted an application for the property on the corner of Spring Valley Road and Grand Avenue. It is a request to combine 2 lots and construct 16 single family homes and one 3 family home.
- This application is scheduled for the January 17th Planning Board meeting.
- R. Hanrahan states that if the project is an affordable housing zone it would be exempt from the tree ordinance.
- Currently, most of the activity before the planning board is focused on use permits. Most recently, a warehouse for Peter Max, artist.

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

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2023