

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

September 19, 2016

Meeting Date/Time Monday, September 19th, 2016; 7:45 PM

Meeting Location Montvale Council Chambers, 2nd 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 provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Acting Chairman Mr. Hanrahan opened the meeting at 7:50pm. He read into the record the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Pledge of Allegiance-Acting Chairman led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present:

Members: Interim Chairman Robert Hanrahan, Richard Johnson, Lisa Skoglund, & Dante Teagno.

Absent: Janet Russo, Secretary, Randall Preston, Judy Russo and Daniel Eichorn

Also Present: R. Lorraine Hutter, Acting Secretary and Gus DeBlasio via conference call

Approval of Minutes- July 18th, 2016 – a motion to approve was made by Mr. Teagno and seconded by Ms. Skoglund all in favor stating aye.

New Business

Butterfly Plantings at 12 Mercedes Drive-Chairman asked Ms. Leia Amin to come forward about her Girl Scout Gold Award. Ms. Amin is from troop 1234. She made her presentation about the milkweed plantings that she would like to plant around Montvale. Ms. Skoglund asked her about how she was making it global. Ms. Amin stated she was going to be making a website, going to different grade levels to present her project and findings at Memorial and Fieldstone school. There has been a decrease in the Monarch Butterflies in the area. The milkweed plantings will attract the butterflies. She is planning on planting them along the woods area by the Environmental walkway at 12 Mercedes Drive, La Trenta Field by the woods and the Senior Center, Huff park and behind the Montvale Library where the path is leading into the woods. She is still looking for other planting areas and is open to any suggestions that the Commission might have.

She plans to plant 8 plants for every 4 square feet along the tree lines in the different areas and along the wooden path behind the library. Mr. Johnson made a recommendation that she should use other social media sites such as Instagram to post pictures.

Ms. Hutter will report back to the Mayor and Council of their recommendation to have her to do the plantings. It was asked of her to let the Environmental Commission know when she would be doing the plantings and to have her tag them so they are not removed by landscaping and mowing of the lawn areas. Chairman also stated that if she needed help that the environmental commission would be willing to help out with the plantings if they were available.

- **Environmental Issues-**Mr. Hanrahan went over the handout that he has asked the secretary to distribute in everyone's packet in regard to Environmental Issues. They went over all the different locations of what was and what the properties looked like after trees were removed.

Downtown and Municipal Complex Beautification- Ms. Hutter called Gus DeBlasio on the speaker phone, Landscape Architect from Maser Consulting. The Mayor and Council have asked the Environmental Commission to review, inspect and make suggestions for the Downtown park area and the Municipal Complex here at 12 Mercedes Drive. Mr. DeBlasio stated that he spoke to Mr. Hipolit, Borough Engineer from Maser Consulting and it was suggested that they come to do a site visit. It was decided that Mr. Hipolit and Mr. DeBlasio would come tomorrow, September 20th, and do a site walk with some of the members. Time will be determined tomorrow morning. Mr. DeBlasio stated he had looked at the both plans that were sent to him from Ms. Hutter. He has some suggestions. He stated he would come out and do the inspection and do a punch list from a safety prospective, ADA and other issues that needs to be addressed. He will make suggestion of what can be done now and what needs to be done in the Spring. Conversation ensued of the board members of the downtown area of the triangles being redone without high grass and that lower plantings be done and to have the dead trees removed. Mr. Hanrahan went over the residential property photobook again with Mr. DeBlasio. Mr. Teagno came up with a suggestion of making the tree cutting process a permit process when someone submits their plans and to make a landscape review part of the packet and to have the Mayor and Council adopt it as an ordinance as part of the process. Mr. Teagno stated he would bring it back to the planning board and speak with Mr. Fette in regard to this. They would delineate the woodland edge of the property and identify the trees within the proximity of the house.

Planning Board Liaison Report: D. Teagno- Mr. Teagno reported that the SuperValue has withdrawn its application

Meeting Opened to Public- Agenda & Non- Agenda items – A motion to open to the public was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Skoglund, no public present.

Meeting Closed to Public- A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Ms. Skoglund and seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Adjournment – *A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Skoglund and seconded it by Mr. Johnson, all in favor stating aye.*

2016 Meeting Dates

Oct. 17 & Nov. 21 (no meeting in December)

Respectively submitted:

R. Lorraine Hutter, Acting Secretary