

Montvale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, New Jersey
Council Chambers at 7:45 pm
March 20, 2017

Chairman Hanrahan called the meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:45 pm. adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The 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).

The roll call attendance: D. Eichhorn (P), Chairman R. Hanrahan (P), M. Jensen (P), R. Johnson (P), R. Preston (P), L. Skoglund (P), & D. Teagno (A)

Non-Member: Secretary J. Russo (P) & Councilman Koelling (A)

Guest: Planning Board Chairman De Pinto

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hanrahan

Approval of the Minutes from the February 13, 2017 Meeting

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by D. Eichhorn and seconded by R. Preston.
- The minutes were approved & will be posted on the borough website.

Communication/Correspondence

- Review the *Value of Trees* document; the document will be formatted into a tri-fold, reviewed by the EC ,submitted to M&C for their review and once approved be distributed thru the building department.
- Title will be changed to "*Tree Value in Montvale*".
- Mission statement will be omitted.
- L. Skoglund submitted information regarding wind effects on trees and said it should be under consideration to become part of the document.
- Climate section needs condensing.
- The brochure would be available on the borough social media accounts, in the building department and provided when a contractor or homeowner is either applying for demo permit or looking to remove an excessive amount of trees.
- Brochure is intended to educate and possibly prevent an excessive removal of trees.

Environmental Commission Activity List

- Chairman Hanrahan displayed the activity list on the overhead projector and reviewed each item.
- Interest in instituting a mass transit tram to shuttle riders from the center of town (train station) to the local corporations was discussed.
- Modifying the current train schedule, thus resulting in the train arriving earlier in Montvale, and increase riders.
- Pascack Valley Passing Sidings Environmental Assessment was explained by PB Chairman De Pinto. The document will be emailed to the commission for their review.

Meeting Opened to the Public

- A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by D. Teagno & seconded by R. Preston.

Old Business

- Pending tree ordinance continues to be discussed and modified. Chairman Hanrahan will present a draft at M & C meeting.
- Chairman Hanrahan and commission prefers the term indiscriminatory tree removal to the term clear cutting.
- The EC believes two separate ordinances are required. Goal of these two ordinances is remove excessive amounts of trees through a simply written ordinance permit.
- First ordinance will be applied in cases when the building department issues a demo second ordinance applies in cases when a renovation permit is issued.
- If trees are removed in the setback area or in buffer zone, the homeowner or developer would be required to appear before the EC.
- Emerald Ash Borer continues to be discussed. Chairman Hanrahan provided photos and information regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. Borough of Hillsdale has confirmed cases of the Emerald Ash Borer. The secretary has contacted Hillsdale EC secretary and will give a report next month.

Meeting Closed to the Public

- A motion to close the meeting to the Public was made by R. Preston and seconded by D. Teagno.

Planning Board Liaison Report

- No report

New Business

- Chairman Hanrahan prepared the *Montvale 2017 Cleanup Day* flyer. Flyers are available at borough hall and posted on the website. Chairman Hanrahan will go to BC Clean Community Office for supplies and t-shirts. Wegmans will donate breakfast & Montvale Dunkin Donuts will provide the coffee. All volunteers are asked to report to the red shed on Memorial Drive at 9:00am on April 29.

Adjournment

- Chairman Hanrahan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by R. Preston and seconded by D. Teagno. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 17. Members will be emailed in the event the meeting is cancelled. The agenda will be posted on the Borough's website. Members are reminded to notify Janet Russo if they are unable to attend.