

Montvale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, New Jersey
Council Chambers at 7:45 pm
April 17, 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).

Roll call: D. Eichhorn (A), Chairman R. Hanrahan (P), M. Jensen (A), R. Johnson (P), R. Preston (P), L. Skoglund (P), & PB Council Liaison D. Teagno (P)

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

Contractual Employee: Gus De Blasio, Maser Consulting P.A. Landscape Architect (P)

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hanrahan

Approval of the Minutes from the March 20, 2017 Meeting

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

Communication/Correspondence

- Continued modifying the *Value of Trees In the Borough of Montvale* brochure. The brochure will be emailed to members for their additional comments. Chairman Hanrahan asked that members' comments be emailed to J. Russo this week.
- Chairman Hanrahan and J. Russo will modify the brochure to incorporate the commission's input.
- Brochure is intended to educate and possibly prevent an excessive removal of trees.
- After brochure is finalized, 500 copies will be printed and charged to the building department's budget.

Environmental Commission Activity List

- Chairman Hanrahan has eliminated this line item due to new software program which will be purchased by the building department. Software will provide up to date information including Geo map, wet lands, DEP and EPA information for each parcel of land. It will be a useful tool and the EC will be able to utilize it.

Meeting Opened to the Public

- A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by D. Teagno & seconded by R. Preston.
- There was a resident that expressed her concerns about the pending tree ordinance. Building set-back is not designed for use with landscaping, and believes the ordinance may be too limiting. Resident wanted the ordinance to clearly reflect if a permit is opened in regards to interior work being done the tree ordinance does not apply.

Old Business

- Pending tree ordinance continues to be discussed and modified.
- Chairman Hanrahan presented a draft at the M & C workshop meeting.
- EC wants ordinances to be simple and enforceable. Ordinances may need modification over time.
- The two pending tree ordinances will now be responsibility of G. De Blasio and D. Green, Borough Planner to modify verbiage. Their revisions will be forward to J. Voytus, Borough Attorney.
- 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 will prepare a press release for the website/e-newsletter to educate the residents.
- G. DeBlasio said that experts are predicting that the EAB will destroy all the ash trees and they will become extinct in seven years. Pesticides are not the solution, it is costly and pollutes the water ways. It offers no guarantee of survival.
- Montvale Clean-Up Day is scheduled for April 29. It is advertised on the website. All groups and residents are encouraged to attend. Light breakfast will be provided courtesy of Wegmans and Montvale Dunkin Donuts. Bergen County Public Works Department is providing cleaning supplies and t-shirts.

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 & J. Russo met with employees from Turner Construction Company. Turner Construction is interested in their employees volunteering for a project in the borough. A few projects were considered, Chairman Hanrahan & the commission has decided that the Environmental Learning Center at 12 Mercedes Drive, requires general maintenance. Trees hanging over the walkway, and the walkway boards need replacement. On May 5, five Turner Construction volunteers will donate their time. Turner construction will not remove the yard waste debris from the site. Chairman Hanrahan & J. Russo will investigate if alternate methods for removal of the yard waste. PV DPW will not be available to assist with this project.
- L. Skoglund provide information regarding the recent EC symposium at BC. Guest speaker spoke about parks, and how they should be part of the master plan. The goal is to have all the parks connect to one another so that the parks are more accessible. BC has funding available for land acquisitions deadline is June 30.
- A list of vacant land from the tax accessor was provided to Chairman Hanrahan and PB Chairman De Pinto.

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 9:50 pm.

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 a meeting.

Meeting Dates

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

No meeting in December