

Montvale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, New Jersey
Conference Room #1 at 7:45 pm
October 16, 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).

Special Announcement: This meeting has been relocated to conference room per Town Hall meeting being held in Council Chambers. This meeting will not be recorded. Notice was given.

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

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

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

Guests: Chris Bowen- resident and Mr. Koenig- Landscape Architect for center of town project.

Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hanrahan

Approval of the Minutes from the September 18, 2017 Meeting

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

Communication/Correspondence

- Brochures and handouts from the ANJEC Environmental Congress which was held on 10/13/17. L. Skoglund briefly discussed the topics that were discussed at the convention. Highlight of the event was the introduction of total and partial electric cars, attendees were encouraged to test drive the cars. Key note speaker was Hoboken Mayor.

Chairman Hanrahan asked that we suspend from our regular agenda schedule to speak with Chris Bowen regarding Huff Park and Mr. Koenig regarding plans for the center of town traffic islands/park.

Meeting Opened/Closed to the Public

- A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by L. Skoglund & seconded by D. Eichhorn.
- Resident was inquiring about natural gas pumping stations being available locally. Chairman Hanrahan said at this time there is not enough of a demand for it.
- A motion to close the meeting to the Public was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by D. Teagno.

Old Business

- Chairman Hanrahan and a few of the EC members attended the last M&C meeting to provide additional information regarding the pending tree ordinance. A resident voiced her concerns regarding the ordinance and Mayor Ghassali asked resident to formalize her comments in writing. Secretary said the resident's comments have been received by the Mayor's office. The EC did not receive a copy of the comments.
- Wegmans Interconnect Walk that exits into the municipal parking lot remains a tabled item. Chairman Hanrahan and members discussed the plans for Pee Wee Field and the parcel of land referred to as the Swim Club. Chairman Hanrahan refined the drawings. There are tentative meeting

dates for the special committee regarding the swim club land. Chairman will introduce the EC ideas at the meeting. Chairman Hanrahan will forward the EC suggestions for Pee Wee field to Mayor Ghassali. *See attached documentation regarding suggestions for Schoolhouse #2 field and the parcel of land where the swim club was located.*

New Business

- Mr. Koenig presented his vision for the center of town's park and traffic islands. Mr. Koenig is the landscape architect that had designed that area in 2003. Thru the years of over growth and lack of a landscape architect maintenance program, the area now needs to be renovated. With any landscape plan Mr. Koenig suggested that the borough should consider purchasing a maintenance program, all the work would be supervised by him. This is annual cost the borough would need to be willing to incur. DPW would continue to do weekly maintenance, this would be beyond the scope of their maintenance. As a result of his inspection and arborist from Bartlett Tree service, a tree report was provided (an electronic copy will be emailed to all the members) which outlines the immediate remediation that is recommend to ensure the safety of anyone visiting the area. The proposed tree maintenance involves pruning or removal. The estimated cost is \$30,000 to \$38,000 depending on who is contracted to do the work. The estimated cost to landscape the park on Kinderkamack Road and the traffic islands would be approximately \$100,000. Irrigation would need to be addressed. Without a water management program in place, the plantings survival is not guaranteed. Council Koelling mentioned that there are future plans about reconstructing the traffic patterns in the center of town, this would affect the landscaping. The above information will be provided to the Borough Administrator. Mr. Koenig would appear before the M & C if requested.
- Eagle Scout project in the Vet Memorial Garden located on traffic island is currently a work in progress will be taken under consideration and incorporated into the landscape plans. There is an additional Eagle Scout project to design and construct either one or two entrance into Montvale signs for the center of town. The presentation went before the M & C.
- Chris Bowen(Former Mayor Huff's grandson) would like to plant a tree and restore the plaque at Huff Park. The EC will forward Mr. Bowen's request to M&C. L. Skoglund suggested after the tree is planted that a re-dedication of the park to the residents of Montvale.

Adjournment

- Chairman Hanrahan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by D. Eichhorn and seconded by L. Skoglund. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Notice: 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 and Chairman Hanrahan if they are unable to attend a meeting. Cindy Petersen will be the acting secretary at the November 20th meeting. Reminder; no meeting is scheduled in December.