

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday January 13, 2020– 7:45pm

Meeting Location:

Executive 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 provision of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1976)

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Hanrahan

Roll Call:

Lisa DePellegrini (P), Daniel Eichhorn (P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen (A), Richard Johnson (A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Vicki Solis (A), Planning Board Liaison Robert Zitelli (A), Council Liaison Chris Roche (P), Secretary Lisa Anastasio (P).

Approval of Minutes – November 2019 Minutes - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by D. Eichhorn.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non–Agenda Items – A motion to open was made by D. Eichhorn and seconded by L. Skoglund.

Members of the Public Present: None

Meeting Closed to Public - Motion to close by L. Skoglund and seconded by D. Eichhorn.

Communication/Correspondence: Welcome to the EC our new Council Liaison, Mr. Christopher Roche.

New Business:

Friends of the EC

- Chairman Hanrahan would like to start a distribution list of volunteers who could support the EC in various projects that the committee is tasked with. Lisa DePellegrini will assist with creating and maintaining a spreadsheet of volunteers.

- Chairman Hanrahan also asked Council Liaison Chris Roche, if he could mention at an upcoming televised Mayor and Council meeting that the EC is actively seeking volunteers and anyone interested can reach out to Chairman Hanrahan. Community service letters will be provided to any students who work with the EC on upcoming projects.

EC Grants

- Chairman Hanrahan reached out to the EC for help with identifying and applying to the DEP and other entities providing environmental grants. Recently, Bergen County received \$1.7 million in recycling grants from the state which is the most of any county in the state.

Clean Up Day

- Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 18, 2020. The flyer will be published in the February, March and April Newsletters, and simultaneously on the Montvale Facebook page. It was further suggested that the flyer should be distributed in the “Wednesday school backpack.”
- Chairman Hanrahan will reach out in March to the Pascack Valley DPW for traffic cones, tables and chairs for Clean Up Day. Additional details to follow as the event draws near.

Old Business:

Pascack Trail

- The EC reviewed a plan for the DEP application dated January 8, 2020 by Boswell Engineering of the Pascack Trail and Huff Pond.
- A new gravel path from Grand Avenue to the beginning of the trail is shown on the plan. The trail itself is natural as is the edging. The EC determined the gravel path is warranted and likes the addition to the site plan.
- Chairman Hanrahan has been in contact with Councilman Arendacs who has been in discussion with the Bayberry Drive residents regarding the trail and acting as a resident representative. Per request the plans have been modified to move the northern entrance to the south side of the Bayberry Gate and the trail was moved further away from the Bayberry Drive properties.
- The conditions set forth by the Borough of Montvale for park benches will be incorporated into the specifications.
- Chairman Hanrahan called for a motion to accept the Pascack Trail plan dated January 8, 2020, and to move forward with DEP applications. The motion was seconded by L. Skoglund. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Montvale Plastic Bag Update

- The Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling continues to be a great success! As of January 13, 2020, just over 2,000 pounds (over a ton) of plastic bags have been delivered to Trex, to be made into synthetic decking material.
- As much as the EC is excited by the outpouring of recycling by Montvale residents, they wish to address the bigger issue, which is to educate the public in ways to reduce and eventually eliminate their use of plastic bags.

Huff Pond

- Boswell provided a schedule for the restoration of the Huff Pond project. Currently site plans and permit documents are being prepared. Will be reviewed next EC meeting.
- Chairman Hanrahan will reach out to Bergen County Mosquito control to see if they can assist with the dredging of Huff Pond. However, any assistance provided by the County will be directed by their schedule.

Recycling Landing Page

- The Recycling landing page on the Borough website is lacking in detail and accurate recycling information. The EC agreed that revisions to the Borough website to include more comprehensive recycling information is warranted.
- Chairman Hanrahan will be drafting an article about recycling in Montvale. Since recycling procedures differ depending on location, he will address both Curbside recycling and Recycling Center procedures. The EC recommends that in addition to written words, pictures and poster might be helpful.

Council Liaison Roche Report – Councilman Roche was recently appointed EC liaison. He will provide a brief report next month.

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Mr. Zitelli was not in attendance.

Adjournment- At 9:40 pm a motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston all in favor stating aye.