

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Monday May 18, 2020 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Webnex online virtual conference meeting

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)

Roll Call:

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

Approval of Minutes –April 20, 2020 Minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by R. Preston.

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

Members of the Public Present: Thomas & Susan Dolan of 16 Bayberry Dr., Linxin Du & Jing Xia of 20 Bayberry Dr., Dick and Barbara Philips of 22 Bayberry Dr. dialed into the meeting. Three out of four Bayberry Dr residents are present to discuss proposed privacy fencing options for the Pascack Trail.
See comments under Pascack Trail.

Meeting Closed to Public - Motion to close by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Zitelli .

Communication/Correspondence: Chairman Hanrahan addressed the EC on the subject of guidelines to be followed when communicating on social media sites. Chairman reviewed the Borough of Montvale’s Communication Media Policy. He asked that EC members exercise caution when expressing personal opinions. As a sitting member of the Environmental Commission, it is important not to state ideas or individual opinions that could be misconstrued as the Borough of Montvale’s viewpoint.

New Business: No new business at present.

Old Business:

Clean Up Day

- The Secretary confirmed the date of Sept. 19, 2020 for Clean Up Day is on the Borough Calendar. If permissible, it is the hope of the EC that this event will take place.
- A 10'x 10' portable steel canopy will be purchased for the EC to use during Clean Up Day and other community events. The Secretary asked the EC to make a decision on the color choice of the canopy. A motion was called by L. Skoglund to order a green canopy. Vicki Solis 2nd the motion. The Secretary polled the EC, the motion was approved by roll call vote.

Pascack Trail

- The DEP has the application for the Trail. There have been some delays due to the pandemic. Hoping to see DEP approval shortly.
- Most of the Bayberry neighbors dialed into this virtual meeting. Chairman Hanrahan provided a history of the Trail, along with review of the latest plans. He then opened the meeting up to the Bayberry neighbors and the EC for comments.
- All parties present shared an interest in a 6-foot vinyl privacy fence, 523 linear feet in length which will run behind all four Bayberry properties, being placed six inches off the Borough's rear property line. The Bayberry neighbors asked that no gates or openings be installed along the privacy fence.
- Susan Dolan of 16 Bayberry Drive asked what brand/manufacturer the fence will be, and color choice. Chairman answered that nothing has been determined, and the EC will meet with residents in the near future to discuss and view pictures of the brand, color, quality etc. The Dolan's were in favor of the privacy fence in addition to their chain linked fence which currently exists on their property.
- Mrs. Dolan also said trees need to be trimmed and debris removed in order for the privacy fence to be installed correctly. Chairman responded that EC has volunteers who will take care of this. Mrs. Dolan also offered that the Montvale Girl Scouts may also be able to help in trailblazing.
- Barbara Phillips of 22 Bayberry Dr. questions who will maintain the fence in the event there is a problem with it. Chairman replied it is the Borough's responsibility and a call to Borough Hall would be appropriate.
- Dick Philips of 22 Bayberry Dr. wanted to be assured that the length of the privacy fence will cover his property. As depicted on the plan, the fence will indeed extend through, and include Mr. Philips' property. Chairman Hanrahan offered to email a copy of the page that details the proposed fencing to any of the Bayberry residents for their review.

Montvale Plastic Bag Update

- Randy Preston and Bob Hanrahan met at the Recycling Center on Saturday, May 16. They cleaned and organized that location which was very full of plastic.
- Discussion ensued as whether to begin Phase 2 of the Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling program, or defer.
- A motion was raised by L. Skoglund to postpone Phase 2 of the Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling program until all collection sites are open, while continuing to maintain the site at the Recycling Center. The motion was seconded by M. Jensen. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Huff Pond

- DEP is reviewing the application for Huff Pond restoration. We are expecting comments from the DEP, as there has been some delay due to Covid 19.

Council Liaison Roche Report – Not present.

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Mr. Zitelli stated that the Planning Board meeting was canceled for April, and nothing new to report at this time.

Adjournment- At 9:00pm a motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Zitelli all in favor stating aye.