

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday September 21, 2020 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Webex

Go to www.webex.com click JOIN and enter the meeting number shown below.

Meeting number 1 (access code):

<https://rhanrahan.my.webex.com/rhanrahan.my/j.php?MTID=mb138078f890bf76e712a795a965e708b>

Meeting Number: #132 174 8503

Or by phone: US toll call: + 1-408-418-9388

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:

Members: Lisa De Pellegrini (P), Daniel Eichhorn (P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen (A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (A), Vicki Solis (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P)

Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2020 Minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Preston and seconded by V. Solis.

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

Meeting Closed to Public: Motion to close was made by D. Eichhorn and seconded by V. Solis.

Communication/Correspondence: A woman reached out to the EC with an interest in joining/participating. She has a degree in Environmental Science.

New Business:

- Recycling in Montvale – We have had a change of vendor to Westphal Waste Services for curbside pickup.
 - Question was posed regarding how residents dispose of shredded paper. Westphal does take shredded paper in a clear plastic bag. Westphal processes recycling and garbage. The Montvale Recycling Center is separate from the curbside pickup. Details regarding waste and recycling are explained on the borough website, yet some details are now clear. The EC will further describe the process we do in Montvale and have it added to the borough website. Details to include the recycling center and curbside pickup.
 - R. Zitelli comments on the recycling process he is familiar with in Eastham, Massachusetts. Residents in the town support this effort; it is a large operation. Is in the process of researching costs and potential earnings so we can see if it makes sense for Montvale to pursue a similar waste management process. We may be able to do more

separation of our recycling, i.e. cardboards, mixed papers, and newspapers. R. Hanrahan states that he has already done some early research and the costs vary. We pay to get rid of our plastics, but earn profits on recycling some other items. Research can be brought to Mayor Ghassali.

- C. Roche: Suggest a Facebook page.
 - R. Hanrahan: Raises a concern about the consistent maintenance of a Facebook page. Requires constant monitoring. An item for further investigation.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update – R. Hanrahan requesting information from sub teams and recommended commission members contact L. De Pellegrini for collaboration.
 - Potential future projects in discussion are bat houses and education on bees. Bat house can be done as a group or each family can do one on their own.
 - Suggest concentrating on events that involve outdoor walks.
 - R. Hanrahan recommends to the EC the use of the Webex account. Useful for communication to groups of people.
- Pascack Trail Update – This coming week we have a contractor coming to put headwall in. Working in collaboration with DPW.
 - Further cleanup work on the trail was accomplished on Montvale Clean-Up Day.
 - Park benches were ordered and will be installed by DPW
 - Trash pails will be dual trash/recyclable were ordered and installed by DPW.
 - V. Solis will take on a project to design and install trail markers, possibly in concert with scout.
 - M. Jensen will work on trail placards.
- Huff Pond Update - Two activities through Boswell Engineering will take place after October.
 - R. Zitelli: Was informed by John DePinto that we received a large donation toward the cleanup process of Huff Pond. R. Hanrahan explains there was a donation made for the dredging and redesign of Huff Pond. The pond has Duckweed, not alae growing in it. Harmful water is not in Montvale. An additional donation was made which will carry us through to the end of the Huff Pond project. Approximately.
 - D. Eichorn inquires as to the status of the fence and pipe to be installed; the headwall and pipe extension. Equipment for the headwall is being delivered this week. Large crane to install an 18,000 pound headwall. Work should be underway by next week.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update –Inquiry to R. Preston for update and next steps regarding opening and bringing Trex on board.
 - Boy Scout Troop 334 Member Varun Gowthaman built an enclosure around the plastic bag collection area. The area is much neater and the bags are out of sight.
 - R. Preston delivered 4 pickup truck loads of plastic bags (250lbs) to Stop and Shop. Inquired to Westphal for a transportation solution that will be more feasible.
 - Request to the EC to help in replacing full bags at the collection site. R. Preston offered a thank you to Westphal for their help.
- Clean Up Day - Commissioner Hanrahan thanked the following members of the Environmental Commission for the help at Clean-Up Day: Daniel Eichorn, Randy Preston, Lisa Skoglund, Lisa

De Pelligrini, Victoria Solis, and Mairead.Jensen (who was able to help after the event later that weekend). Chris Roche and the Mayor Ghassali came. Thank you everyone.

- Over 100 volunteers in attendance.
- Over 1000 pounds of garbage were collected encompassing well over 100 bags. Other collected items included tires, metal from air conditioners, a refrigerator, and a cider press was pulled out of Pascaek Brook on south side of Grand Avenue.
- Thank you L. Skoglund for organizing the lineup of volunteers. Recommendation to repeat the organization model for the next Clean-Up Day.
- Pictures will be posted on the Montvale Borough website.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – No news to report at this time.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Affordable housing development to encompass 25 apartments/townhouses on land owned by the Borough of Montvale. Still in discussion.
- Potential development across from the A/P still in discussion.
- Discussion of development near Railroad Avenue to include the demolition of the gas station and development of a convenience store.
- Next Planning Board Meeting: October 6th.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by R. Hanrahan and seconded by V. Solis all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2020.