

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday October 19, 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=mf9c2d7fdace4a7444073e513f773350d>

Meeting Number: #132 574 2419

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 (P), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (A), Vicki Solis (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P)

Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2020 Minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Preston and seconded by R. Zitelli.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items – No motion made – N/A

Meeting Closed to Public – No motion made – N/A

Communication/Correspondence:

New Business:

- **Recycling in Montvale** – Objective: Improving clarity and communication of recycling options to borough residents. Suggestion to use icons in written communication when describing recycling options.
- Westphal is contracted for curbside pickup of recycling. Westphal allows for co-mingle or single stream recycling. Items of note: newspaper must be tied and bundled, containers must be rinsed free of food, shredded paper must be put in clear plastic bags for ease of visibility. 50lb maximum weight per pail of items left at curbside.
- Pascack Valley DPW manages the recycling center located at 1 Memorial Drive. PV DPW Recycling center is not single stream/co-mingled.

- Discussion regarding the economics of recycling:

- The borough pays Westphal an annual fee for curbside pickup. The recycling center (managed by PV DPW) items could be a commodity or a debt to the borough depending upon what is being recycled. Currently, the only items that are reimbursed are metals. Costs to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic and cans vary. Plastic, aluminum, cans and paper are commodities that change in value.
 - R. Preston states that currently the borough pays for the recycling on Memorial Drive. We are not breaking even. Suggests leverage the curbside pickup of recycling materials.
 - R. Hanrahan states that the PV DPW management of the borough's recycling is not a net positive operation. Typically, we do not make money on the operation. Curbside pickup is better for the town fiscally.
 - R. Zitelli states that the economics of either recycling program could change in potential benefit. The price paid for some recyclable items could increase or decrease making the programs less or more profitable.
 - Main objective is to increase resident participation in recycling. Curbside collection and the recycling center on Memorial Drive are both viable options.
 - V. Solis suggests we communicate to residents the benefits of curbside pickup.
- Discussion on ways to communicate/publicize the recycling program to residents:
 - B. Zitelli suggests a continuous stream of advertisements in the Pascack Press and on Montvale.org.
 - R. Hanrahan states an editorial will be free of charge. We can put an article in the Montvale borough newsletter. Also recommends a calendar to be mailed to residents. We can increase resident awareness and responsibility toward recycling.
 - Suggestion of sticker for bins with details on what can be recycled.
 - D. Eichorn suggest a simple one page communication. A press release with flyer included.
 - C. Roche recommends a full page flyer and postcard that is mailed to residents in the spring and fall. Recommends including "recycling tips" in the recycling coach (an app. that reminds residents of garbage/recycling and leaf pickups); focus on a different recycling topic for each alert. States there needs to be a paragraph that explains curbside pickup and the recycling center. As changes take place in the program we need to update information.
 - V. Solis recommends a flyer to Community Life and the Pascack Press. Bright in color to catch the reader's attention. Target Montvale only.
 - M. Jensen suggests implementing an app.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini) – Nothing to report.
 - Commissioner Hanrahan requests to the EC to collaborate. Suggestion to pick one item for the commission to work on as a team effort.
 - V. Solis inquires on trail signage and related costs. We require a budget for anticipated costs.
 - R Hanrahan reminds EC on past discussions and interest in bat houses and bee work. Suggestion to reach out with anticipated program ideas.

- Pascack Trail Update –Steve Rich will begin work on the headwall this week. Anticipate opening of the trail for resident use by the end of this year.
- Huff Pond Update- A county soil application has been submitted and we are waiting for approval. Next steps involve a bid specification for work contracts to include dredging, processing material removed from the pond, and testing.
- Anticipate the bid will go out at the end of November pending approval of the Bergen County soil application.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update – As of Monday, October 12th we launched another cycle of the Trex recycling program. Westphal has agreed to donate their transportation services toward another trip to Stop and Shop to deliver collected plastic items. Resident participation is high. We are still looking for a sustainable way to maintain this program. Thank you Randall Preston for driving this program, Mairead Jensen for much site work, and Chris Roche for publicizing the program to our community through Facebook.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – nothing to report

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli – Describes projects as follows:

- **Montvale Family Apartments** – location to be on Summit Avenue on property purchased by Montvale for affordable housing. 25 units.
- **Wade Point** – looking to develop 170 units across the street from where A & P’s headquarters were. A trail is part of the plan.

R. Hanrahan: Requests any information available regarding the trail be shared with the EC via email.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by M. Jensen all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday November 16, 2020.