

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, May 17, 2021 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

Go to www.zoom.us click JOIN A MEETING and enter the meeting number shown below.

Link to Join Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83567024909?pwd=V29aL1BqSnRZSDRIUitoQ2V4MnpaZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 6702 4909

Passcode: 186224

Or by phone: US toll call: + 1 929 436 2866

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(A), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(P)& Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2021 - A motion to approve was made by R. Hanrahan and seconded by R. Preston.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items- A motion to open was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by D. Eichorn.

Meeting Closed to Public- Motion to close was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by D. Eichorn.

Communication/Correspondence:

- We received an email from a resident concerning polystyrene recycling and the potential of initiating a program in Montvale. Currently we are in the research phase. Key points are as follows:
 - Styrofoam is not cost effective to recycle.
 - Typically it is disposed of in landfill.
 - It has a large volume per weight.
 - Some towns and organizations are finding ways to convert it into a reusable product.
 - It would require finding a company who has the equipment, and purchasing or leasing it (potentially for use in the recycling center). There is a company identified in southern jersey that makes the equipment and leases it out.
 - Chairman Hanrahan offers to the commission members to facilitate a connection/contact for anyone interested in researching the subject further.

New Business:

- Tree Removal Request – Block 401, Lot 6, Zone R-40 (49 North Avenue)
 - Chairman Hanrahan summarizes the tree removal ordinance stating that any construction that is managed through the building department requires approval of tree removal via permit per ordinance specifications. When a tree is removed from the protected zone compensatory planting on the property is required; location of such planting is up to the discretion of the property owner.
 - Applicant/resident requesting approval to remove three oak trees and one elm tree.
 - Four trees are being removed (ten trees remain in the area) and homeowner agreed to plant four native trees on the property in other locations.
 - Feedback from EC commission members: All in agreement of request.

Approval of tree removal request submitted by property owner for Block 401, Lot 6, Zone R-40 (49 North Avenue) A roll call vote was made and approved the request as follows: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Daniel Eichhorn(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes) Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)

- Community Garden:
 - Community gardens, trails, and Huff Pond are all categorized as open space. The EC oversees these spaces.
 - Possible Locations:
 - LaTrenta Field: Not a central location. Poor sunlight, good parking.
 - Schoolhouse 2: next to 7-11: Poor parking, poor sunlight.
 - Former Swim club property: Has water and power on site. Great parking and central location. Benefit of elementary school in close proximity being within walking distance.
 - Location would be on the north side of the property to allow for other community uses; possibly a pavilion.
 - Size of Garden:
 - 250 x 60 foot area will allow for 100 4 x 8 raised gardens.
 - Each horizontal isle will be 4 feet wide which will allow for people to work on different gardens simultaneously.
 - Composition/Benefit of Raised Garden Beds:
 - Non-pressure treated wood.
 - More attractive than flushed beds.
 - Require less bending to reach the garden.
 - DEP would prefer raised beds.
 - Raised beds will not require testing on soil.
 - Sprinkler systems:
 - Possibility of a self-watering system.
 - Management:
 - We have people who are interested in helping.
 - We need a few people who will manage the garden.
 - Cost to participate:
 - \$25/year would be a typical cost which will help pay for mulch and water.
 - Participation could require donated hours of community service toward maintenance of the garden.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Bat houses – beneficial in controlling mosquitos
 - Locations:
 1. Next to Huff pond near the children’s play area (in need of re-securing into polls)
 2. Borough Hall (upside down/in need of repair).
 - Installed by scouts 7 years ago.
- Pascack Trail Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - V. Solis, M. Jensen, E. Riccardi and R. Hanrahan met at the trail to discuss signage.
 - Trail signs are in and ready to be placed/secured on the trail.
 - We require donations of any trees or shrubs for the trail; 40 or 50 shrubs would be beneficial.
 - Suggest donations from homeowners who are updating landscaping on their properties and disposing of old shrubbery.
- Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - After pond was drained material from bottom of pond was pulled up and spread around in piles to be dried.
 - Two basins were dug between the DPW and Huff Pond to be used as temporary holding areas for the materials.
 - Once the material is dried it will be sent out for testing.
 - Contractor put application in for 60 day extension for completion of project.
 - New pipe going in, check valve, and valve going out.
 - Small picket/safety fence to be replaced/installed as an Eagle Scout project by the opening of Huff Pond.
 - Renovation update/engineering plan revised to include additional plantings.
 - All members present from the EC are in agreement with the changes and update of plantings.
- Update on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Tree Planting/Dedication (Pride Day event on June 13th)
 - Members of the committee joined our April Monthly meeting and requested advice on a tree species and planting locations for their tree dedication.
 - The EC gave recommendations on species and guidance on planting techniques.
 - D & I Committee Choice: Weeping Cherry tree
 - EC guidance recommended a plant native to our region; ideally one that is on our engineering plans for Huff Pond.
 - Once the plan has been updated and approved it will send to the D & I committee.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
 - Suggestions to start up another cycle of the collection.
- Electric Vehicle update
 - ANJEC webinar on Wednesday.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- Pride in the Park Event: June 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be speakers and the tree dedication.
- Former Swim Club Property: Discussion of possible location for a new community center. Suggestion to find alternative location for the community garden.
 - R. Hanrahan response: The community garden could be installed on the far north end of the open space which would not interfere with an additional large

structure (community center) being built. The garden would be made of non-pressure treated wood which lasts for 4 to 5 years.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Waypoint application withdrawn.
- Many use permits are being submitted.

Next meeting of the planning board is Tuesday, May 18th.

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, June 21, 2021