

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MONTHLY MINUTES

### Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, July 19, 2021 – 7:45pm

### Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Go to [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us) click JOIN A MEETING and enter the meeting number shown below.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83448644172?pwd=UHBxS3NvUWdNdzBpRm82Z3ZkTldkUT09>

**Meeting ID: 834 4864 4172**

**Passcode: 977442**

**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(A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Vicki Solis (A), Michelle Zink-Jojic (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P), EC Intern Shannon Stemper (P)**

**Approval of Minutes** – June 21, 2021- A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and second by D. Eichhorn.

**Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items – no public present**

**Communication/Correspondence: no communication/correspondence**

### New Business:

- Tree Removal Request – Block 1301, Lot 20, Zone R-40 (20 Donnybrook Road)
  - Application as originally submitted was not compliant with borough code because it was missing compensatory tree planting.
  - Chairman Hanrahan reached out to resident to explain the ordinance and asked applicant to modify the application.
  - Residents were happy to comply once they understood the ordinance.
  - The home is scheduled to be demolished. The tree removal application must be reviewed based upon the current circumstances.
  - Agreement to wait until after construction for compliance.
  - Recommendations from the EC: Blue Spruces, Douglas Fir, White Pines (deer resistant).

**Approval of tree removal request submitted by property owner for Block 1301, Lot 20, Zone R-40 (20 Donnybrook Road) 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 (absent)**

**Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Vicki Solis (absent), Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes) Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)**

- Borough Tree Removal Policy
  - Policy is the code. R. Hanrahan met with the Building Department to review the code and ensure all expectations/questions of residents are answered and communication between departments is efficient.
  - Consensus was that we are not seeing clearcutting at present and the tree ordinance has helped.

Comments from the EC members on publicizing the ordinance:

- Language was added to the tree brochure stating that Montvale has a tree ordinance.
  - Searchable information on the borough website.
  - Communicate with/educate local tree contractors.
  - Install a sign or plaque in town.
  - Add information to bulletin display at Memorial Park.
  - Display a sign at our tent on Day in the Park informing residents that Montvale has a tree ordinance.
- Open Spaces
  - Shannon is working on open space inventory past/current history.
  - R. Hanrahan shared a tree inventory that is approximately 8 to 9 years old which is a good starting point/can be updated.
  - Some grants require a tree inventory.
  - We can start a database using the tree removal application information.
- Fundraising
  - Discussion includes fundraising for trail, land acquisition, and crossing light to connect to other municipal trails.
  - We require committee members to take the lead. R. Hanrahan ask EC committee for any members interested in working on fundraising.

**Old Business:**

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
  - Day in the Park – Bat Education with Chris Volk.
  - Boy Scouts might help the EC with build and distribute of bat houses
  - EC member suggestions:
    - An event to show off finished projects/bat houses.
    - Families/children sign up at Day in the Park to get a bat house kit. Boy Scouts could do the prep work and prepare kits before distribution.
    - Distribute plans for families to construct bat houses at home.
    - Mass produce kits to be distributed at Day in the Park. Hold a contest and announce a winner the week of Halloween; create enthusiasm for the project.
- Pascack Trail Update (Robert Hanrahan) –
  - Boy Scouts will install 3 benches on the trail and replace fence.
  - Trail was marked by Vicki and Joe Solis and Ellen Riccardi.
  - Trail signs are installed.

- Shannon and Bob initiated a discussion with the fire chief regarding a traffic light on Grand Ave to allow road crossing and be used for Fire and Police activity. To be discussed with John DePinto (Planning and Zoning).
- Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan) –
  - The water is flowing in and out/check valve is working. The pond has water.
  - Soil has been removed
  - Fence will come down soon.
  - Planting of new trees will begin end of September.
  - Fish will be stocked in September.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen) –
  - The program will continue until the end of the year
  - M. Jensen/V. Solis/R. Preston have been transporting bags to Stop and Shop.
  - Plastic Bag Legislation – November begins state roll out starting with business before residential regulation.
  - EC will distribute a flyer for roll out.
  - Beginning in May 2022 Styrofoam containers and plastic bags will not be allowed.
  - The EC will update the Facebook page with information as it becomes available.
  - Shopping bag give away at Day in the Park on August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund) – No news to report
- Community/Pollinator Garden Update –
  - ANJEC Grant (Pollinator Garden)
    - 10 x 15 ft. Pollinator Garden.
    - Shannon met with Girl Scout to work on planting plans.
    - Garden will be built in the next few weeks and planting will occur in September.
    - Small Bocce court will be built in the same vicinity.
  - Community Garden
    - EC is waiting for Mayor & Council budget/direction
    - Andy Hipolit/Borough Engineer is in agreement that a Community Garden will not interfere with any potential construction.
    - Location to be on the north side of swim club property.

**Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – no news to report**

**Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli**

- Use permits on current agenda.

**Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by D. Eichhorn all in favor stating aye.**

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, August 16, 2021**