

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

**Meeting Date/Time:**

Monday, February 22, 2021 – 7:45pm

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

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

**Link to Join Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81132629272?pwd=YzFWUDJqNWpxS25KbWR3SktsNlhGQT09>

**Meeting Number:** # 811 3262 9272

**Meeting Passcode:** Passcode: 100615

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

**Approval of Minutes** – January 11, 2021 Minutes – A motion to approve was made by R. Hanrahan and seconded by V. Solis.

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

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

**Communication/Correspondence:**

- Woodland Heights email regarding DEP agreement and Wetlands
  - The President of the Woodland Heights HOA contacted the borough for guidance. R. Hanrahan forwarded information on local ordinances and suggested the HOA contact the DEP for more detailed information from the 2016 planning board. Request was made for R. Hanrahan to meet in person next month to discuss the tree ordinance and provide consultation. A meeting was scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Letter received from Churchill Consulting Engineers regarding extension of statewide multi-use permit allowing NJTA continued access to provide maintenance and repair activities within the area of the Garden State Parkway.

**New Business:**

- **Clean-Up Day:**
  - Montvale Clean Up Day scheduled for April 10th from 9 to 12 p.m. Meeting location will be the red shed at Memorial Park.
  - R. Hanrahan requests help of L. DePellegrini and L. Skoglund regarding organization of the participants and adherence to social distancing.
  - Format remains the same as the last event.

- R. Hanrahan will:
  - Request some *giveaways* for event participants from the county;
  - Obtain plastic bags, gloves and pick up sticks for participants (funded through mini-grant);
  - Distribute hold harmless form;
  - Complete the flyer and bring to borough for distribution;
  - Email boy scouts and girl scouts to enlist participation;
  - Update our annual article for newspaper publication.
- R. Hanrahan requests commission members to attend and help with set up.
- L. Skoglund comments– Last year’s event was successful and well received.
- V. Solis suggests distributing the *giveaways* at the conclusion of the event.
- R. Zitelli suggests notifying the Mayor and including event in the newsletter and on the borough website.
- Discussion of rain date resulted in decision to hold event rain or shine.
- E. Riccardi will:
  - Place work order with the DPW for 4 tables and 8 chairs for the event.
  - Request cones (10) to block off the area in front of the red shed/Memorial Park.
- R. Preston asks if we are coordinating with the county and if we are required to maintain eligibility for grant funds?
- R. Hanrahan responds the mini grant funds the bags, gloves and pick up sticks and the Clean Communities grant funds depends on level of compliance. One way to comply is to host a Clean Up Day. We receive grants each year for open space funding.

## **Old Business:**

- **Community Project Update (L. De Pellegrini/L. Skoglund)**
  - Launched Facebook group called The Friends of the Montvale Environmental Commission.
  - R. Hanrahan suggests a cover page picture of the convergence of Muddy Brook and Pascack Brook.
  - Bat houses – Suggested locations are the recycling center and Huff pond.
  - Community Education –
    - Suggested subject topics include radon, trees and recyclables.
- **Pascack Trail Update (R. Hanrahan)**
  - 2/22/21 was the scheduled start date of work by Downes but work has been delayed due to weather constraints. Contractors will start as soon as the weather permits.
  - Work to include:
    - dredging
    - redesigning of the inlet and outlet
    - minor landscape architecture
  - The fence has been installed and looks great. The small fences around the headwalls will be completed shortly.
  - V. Solis has received the “trail” signs and they are ready for installation.
  - Trail markers are under consideration.
  - R. Hanrahan has marked installation locations for the 3 benches. They require installation on a footing. Request went to the building department, but costs are prohibitive. R. Hanrahan requests commission member input for other suggestions to secure the benches to the desired locations.
  - R. Zitelli will reach out with some suggestions on footings.

- **Huff Pond Update (R. Hanrahan)**
  - R. Hanrahan will put out a community communication stating that Huff Pond will be closed in the coming weeks due to renovation.
- **Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (R. Preston/M. Jensen)**
  - We now have two benches. V. Solis, R. Preston and M. Jensen continue to deliver the bags to Stop and Shop.
  - M. Jensen ordered 2 signs (24 x 24 inches in size) for the recycling center shed that will describe details on permissible plastic recycling.
  - We will continue with the Trex Plastic Bag Program until the state ratifies a mandate on plastic bags.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) charging update (L. Skoglund)**
  - Solar powered electrical vehicle charging stations can be placed in locations that are not connected to the electrical system.
  - R. Hanrahan states there are several charging stations in the area located in Park Ridge and Pearl River. There are federal and state rebates for purchasing a charger. Possible location by the library/Borough Hall Entry.
  - L. Skoglund states rapid chargers are the most desirable. Requests collaboration from other commission members.

**Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – not present**

**Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli –**

- **Wade Point Development update**
  - 157 units in proposal; 2- 3 bedroom units
  - Developers will put in a trail.
  - Concerns pertaining to wetlands and restrictions.
- **Paragon Drive**
  - Plans for installation of a solar array.
  - Panels are being installed at an angle to maximize sun exposure.

R. Zitelli states that the planning board is busy with the submission of many applications.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by R. Preston and seconded by R. Zitelli all in favor stating aye.

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, March 15, 2021**