

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, January 17, 2022 – 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/85224760876?pwd=OUFtbzU4aHkyditab21xMEtUclcrQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 2476 0876

Passcode: 334566

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), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(P), Mairead Jensen(P), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Vicki Solis(P), Antonio Vozzolo(A), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P), Shannon Stemper (intern)(A)

**Approval of Minutes** – December 13, 2021 - A motion to approve was made by M. Jensen 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 L. Skoglund.

**Meeting Closed to Public** - A motion to close was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Zitelli.

### Communication/Correspondence:

- A resident who lives in the Woodland Heights development contacted R. Hanrahan inquiring about Wetland Category 1 and resource and conservation. He is interested in getting involved in the EC. We will be talking to him in the coming weeks.

### New Business:

- Bicycle and Walking Plan
  - Many of the main thoroughfares are heavily traveled by cars and don't provide adequate space for bikes.
  - R. Hanrahan called the contractor for our Open Space and Recreation Plan, The Land Conservancy of NJ and requested a bicycle plan to be include in the scope of the work they are providing us.

- A. Vozzolo contacted R. Hanrahan with interest in researching bicycle and walking plans for us.
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- We can utilize state level support to assist us at a municipal level.
- Users of electric bikes and scooters will be looking for ways to safely transit through municipalities.
- R. Zitelli states that the biggest challenge is making the roads safe for bikers.

### **Old Business:**

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
  - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
    - We are currently collecting wood for the bat houses.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - We hired a contractor to perform two different tasks as follow:
    1. To clean up the trail from the damage caused by tropical storm Ida. All erosion was cleaned and boulders were repositioned. The area near Grand Avenue where the edging was pulled up has been repaired. The trail is now safe to walk on again.
    2. The area between the recycling center and the trail needed clean up and visual screening. The landscaper removed the garbage and deposited it in dumpsters. The fence was repaired to where it had missing panels and the broken gate was repaired. Some evergreens and hews that were obstructed from view due to the garbage are now visible. Additionally, twelve green giant arborvitae were planted for a fast growing and deer safe visual screening.
  - Budget discussion on Huff Pond repairs due to tropical storm Ida storm damage is ongoing.
  - We require 3 estimates/bids on installation of fence to be placed at the recycling center.
  - The aerator was pulled out of the pond and will be returned when the weather is warmer.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
  - R. Preston states that plastic bag collection has been robust.
  - We collected over 100 pounds of plastic in December and to date, we have collected over 165 pounds in January (half way through the month).
  - We have received 3 benches which are in the shed at the senior center waiting for installation. We are working toward our 4<sup>th</sup> bench.
  - A few participants at the senior center are retired handymen and will help with installation.
  - We have collected a total of 4,550 pounds of plastic to date; which includes 375,316 plastic bags.
  - Thank you Mairead, Randy, and Vicki Solis for all your hard work transporting plastics to the recycling center.
  - We are currently collecting more plastics than Randy, Mairead and Bob can transport to Stop and Shop.
  - R. Hanrahan requests EC members to assist in the transportation of plastics.
  - The home economics teacher at Fieldstone got approval from the principal to collect plastics. R. Hanrahan gave her 2 collection boxes. They will handle delivering their collected bags to Stop and Shop. The school will report collection numbers to R. Hanrahan for our logs.
- Plastic Bag Legislation (Robert Hanrahan)

- R. Hanrahan will continue to share emails with the EC members about plastic bag legislation as he receives them.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund)
  - A. Vozzolo will be providing research/information.
  - An electric vehicle plan will be included in the open space and recreation plan.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - The EC is waiting for guidance from the Mayor and Council.
  - The EC is ready and willing to initiate an action plan once we have approval.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
  - Currently we are in a feedback stage and are providing open communication from municipality to contractor.
  - Deadline to have an approved and complete plan is by end of 2022.
- Pollinator Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - Girl scouts are putting a plaque on the garden to show they invested their volunteer efforts.
- Tree City Application
  - Thanks to Ellen Riccardi for helping with the Tree City Application.
  - Once we comply and application is approved we will have a plaque to place in Montvale.

#### **Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche**

- Budget meeting pertaining to the EC is January 24<sup>th</sup> (Huff Pond Repair)
- Once we introduce the budget we can move forward with Boswell Engineering and Downes Trees Services.

#### **Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli**

- Montvale Family Apartments – Currently in ongoing legal discussion.
- Former Western Union Building on Summit Avenue will be converted into a rehabilitation facility. Half of the building will be demolished and rebuilt; the other half will remain.
- Next meeting is January 18, 2022.
- R. Hanrahan requests that R. Zitelli ask for assistance from the planning board with the Open Space and Recreation plan. We require accurate block/lot parcel information.

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

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, February 21, 2022**