

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, July 18, 2022 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85698132618?pwd=WWI3ckFXb1ZqeXk4VDZsRWRIQWIJdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 9813 2618

Passcode: 991002

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(A), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – June 27, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by R. Preston and seconded by L. De Pellegrini.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items – N/A

Meeting Closed to Public – N/A

New Business:

- New Community Center discussion
 - The Mayor and Council held a meeting last Tuesday to discuss the proposed new Community Center.
 - Approximately 50 residents in attendance.
 - Engineering renderings were presented and Mr. Hippolit (the Engineer) headed a question and answer session.
 - R. Hanrahan inquired about the location of the proposed center. The concept is to remove the current community center building and use the former swimming pool location to rebuild.
 - Question posed regarding the category 1 waterway restrictions and the riparian buffer. Mr. Hippolit replied that it should not be problematic because there is a current structure there now.
 - Question posed regarding impervious surfaces. It was suggested to the Mayor and Council to investigate these concerns/questions.

- C. Roche is a committee member. The committee will meet with community representatives to get input on resident needs.
- L De Pellegrini suggests putting a community pool in a different location away from a category 1 waterway.
- R. Hanrahan states that we do have an environmental responsibility to make sure nothing is harming the brook.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center (trail across parking lot at borough hall)
 - Trail is approximately 1 mile long on a pressure treated walkway.
 - Used by many residents in town.
 - There are at least 12 2x6 wood flooring that are in need of replacement. R. Hanrahan reached out to the scouts to request assistance. It is a great opportunity for them to get the environmental conservation credits and repair the trail.
 - R. Hanrahan would like to do a mass communication to Montvale residents and remind them of the Huff Pond Trail and the Environmental Learning Center trail.
 - EC members suggestions:
 - Signage
 - Present information at the street fair
 - Post on the Facebook page

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - L. De Pellegrini spoke to Bob O’Neil, scout leader, and the boys will help to build the bat houses in September.
 - We still require more wood.
 - Will request donations on Facebook.
 - Possible distribution in late November.
 - R. Hanrahan suggests we reach out to the bat expert for a community presentation.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan spoke to the DEP – They advised us to hire an engineer and commission a proposal on stabilizing the land.
 - There is still money left from the Huff Pond project in reserve which could possibly be used for retention/stabilization of the soil short term.
 - The pond is within 300 feet of a category 1 waterway.
 - R. Hanrahan reached out to ANJEC for a list of experts in this area.
 - We need a long term solution.
 - R. Hanrahan wrote an article on category 1 waterways to distribute to the community.
 - New Jersey is trying to repair the mistakes from the past and put some anchors down in the way of a “riparian” buffer.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
 - We need help with transporting the bags to Stop and Shop.
 - Thank you to Mairead and Randy for all your hard work.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)

- Currently waiting for list of automobile inventory to include town, construction department and Police Department vehicles.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Suggestion of a combination of vegetable gardens and flower gardens that the community will maintain.
 - The project is on hold until the plan for a community center has more structure.
 - Mayor has confirmed that he does receive requests for a community garden.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
 - The New Jersey Land Conservancy will be presenting to the Mayor and Council on July 26, 2022 and to the Planning Board on August 2, 2022.
 - Information to be provided will be a combination of statistic, land classification and how the findings can be used for funding future projects.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Preston volunteered collaborate with R. Hanrahan and research potential sites for signage.
 - Will provide some pictures of potential locations on Grand Avenue East and West, Kinderkamack Road North and South.
 - 12 foot posts cost approx. \$150.00
 - Suggestion to ask Mayor and Council to support the cost for installation of signs.
- Communication about Tree Ordinance to New Families
 - We have the tree trifold, wetland trifold and category 1 waterway article that can be included in a welcome letter to new town residents.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- Working on proposal for a new Community Center.
- Will be meeting with representatives from different committees to discuss and get input on what community members are looking for.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli – not present

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by A. Vozzolo all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, August 15, 2022