

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
12 Mercedes Dr., Montvale, NJ 07645
Council Chambers-7:45pm

MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2016

Robert Hanrahan, Acting Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:45pm. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Record and/or the Ridgewood News, informing the Public of the time and place, according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Roll Call:

- **Present:** Daniel, Eichhorn, Robert Hanrahan, Judy Russo, and Dante Teagno
- **Absent:** Lisa Skoglund, William Antczak, Janet Russo, Board Secretary, and Richard Johnson
- **Also Present:** Ms. Lorraine Hutter, Acting Secretary, Mr. Andrew Hipolit, Borough Engineer, Mr. Gus DeBlasio, Landscape Architect, Maser Consulting, Mr. Chris Dour, Engineer, Maser Consulting

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Preston and seconded by Mr. Eichhorn with all stating aye.

Meeting Opened to the Public- Mr. Hanrahan opened the meeting to the public. No one from the public wishing to be heard the meeting was closed to the public.

Communication/Correspondence

- Natural Resource Inventory Committee-R. Hanrahan-no report
- Environmental Commission Issues-R. Hanrahan-no report
- Maser Landscape Architect Resume-Correspondence was received in regard to the Landscape Architect from Maser Consulting, Gus DeBlasio.
- ANJEC membership list updated-Mr. Hanrahan stated he encouraged people to use the membership. They will go out of their way to respond to any questions. They have volunteered and paid experts on site.

Planning Board Liaison Report: Mr. Teagno stated at the last meeting, that 100 Philips Parkway will have a new tenant, Celectus, Inc., and they will be reaching out to the environmental commission for a review of landscaping. The building owner has been in contact with the board secretary.

Applicant: None

Old Business:

- **Draft of M&C Tree Ordinance-**Mr. Hanrahan stated that EC comments were emailed to Mr. Teagno. The Mayor had asked him to share a comment that there has been a fair amount of important from the public both for and against the tree ordinance and he wanted to organize an informal team to go over the input to make sure that it is fairly reviewed before the Ordinance is introduced stated Mr. Hanrahan. Mr. Hanrahan stated block and lot examples of clear cutting would be helpful. Mr. Teagno stated that Ms. LaMonica and Mr. Lintner and he have created a draft of a tree ordinance and sent it on to Darlene Green, Borough Planner, and she incorporated some other comments. Basically the subcommittee has done what it was put in place to do and that was to get the ball rolling to get a draft out there that could be worked into an Ordinance. The next step is to get before the Mayor and Council stated Mr. Teagno. Mr. Hanrahan stated he believes that the Environmental Commission will be an intricate part of the process.
- **Chairman-Vacancy-** At this time there has been no appointment of a chairman.
- **Vice Chairman-**Mayor Ghassali has eliminated the position.

New Business

- Mr. Hanrahan welcomed new member Judy Russo.
- **Article for MyMontvale-**Mr. Hanrahan stated that will be looking to have a corner in the MyMontvale. He would like to start off with an intro of what the Environmental Commission awareness. The Environmental Commission in the past has been very planning board focused, but he believes that they should be also focusing on other things. Renewable energy, plastic bags control and electric trams down to Kinderkamack Road are items that he believes would be great items for subcommittees. Mr. Hipolit stated that he would like them to incorporate a Stormwater Mangement Ordinance which was passed in 2004, allows Montvale to discharge water into waterways that are owned and operated by the state, ocean, bays, and rivers. It has reduced, trash, bottles, pet waste, but one of the components is education, stated Mr. Hipolit. The State is pro-education, they give towns points in their system for education and environmental commission, and you could put snippets in about dog waste being picked up, and placed in the trash not in storm drains. MR. Hipolit stated he can send some information their way for posting in the MyMontvale.
- **Maser Consulting Engineering meet and greet:** Mr. Hipolit, Mr. Dour, and Mr. DeBlasio all from Maser Consulting were introduced. Mr. Gus DeBlasio, Landscape Architect, Maser Consulting, will be helping the Environmental Commission with applications from the Planning Board looking for recommendations' of landscaping. Mr. Hipolit stated that they would love to work with the commission on publicizing our ordinances and with the loss of the prior chairman the borough had asked if Maser had an expert

that could fill that role. Gus is going to serve at the planning board level as someone who would review plans from that aspect-different of what he himself looks at. Mr. DeBlasio went over his qualifications. Mr. Harahan asked how much this is going to cost us. Mr. Hipolit stated that the costs are paid through escrow monies from the applicant. When Gus is engaged by the Borough itself or some subcommittee or task committee is where Montvale would be billed. Ms. Hutter stated that it would have to become a budgetary item and that they should approach the governing body for Gus to come for not applicant items. Gus will be the sign off. It was decided that they would all receive a copy of the plan at the same time as Gus. Gus would do a review letter and forward it to the members. They will have a time to review with a limit on time, sent by e-mail, Gus will then try to incorporate the comments into his review. This will be done on a trial basis. Ms. Russo stated that when she was working people would come in about cutting some trees down on their property, she would refer them to Wolfgang, and who would they be referring. Mr. Hanrahan stated that without a chair it is difficult and it should go to whoever is filling the void as the chairman. Mr. Hipolit stated that is what happened in the past but he doesn't recommend that, as the ordinance doesn't have a requirement for that. If there was an issue, Mr. Hipolit stated to call and someone could either take a picture or send it to Mr. DeBlasio and/or he could have a field guy stop by and take a look. Mr. Hanrahan stated that Mr. Vogt would go out to do inspections.

Mr. Hipolit stated we don't want to have happen in the past where someone tells someone to take trees down and it is actually in a conservation easement or wetland. There was no authority from the commission to do that. Mr. Hanrahan stated that they need the knowledge of what Mr. Hipolit and Mr. DeBlasio have to offer.

Mr. Hanrahan talked about the Town Clean-Up that will be taking place this Saturday. They will be meeting at the Red Shed at 9:00 a.m. Stein's is donating 5 dz. Bagels, Dunkin Donuts called us and asked if they could please donate coffee and donuts. He would like to thank both businesses. The Mayor would like this to be a family event. There will be t-shirts, and refreshments and it will go till noon.

Mr. Hanrahan asked Mr. Hipolit of what should they be concentrating on. Mr. Hipolit stated the athletic fields, main roads, for garbage.

Ms. Betsy Thomson was introduced. She is part of the Green Team of Park Ridge. She had reached out to Montvale in regard to the Fairview Trail. This was started in 2012. Ms. Thomson gave an overview of the trail. It is a trail between Park Ridge and Montvale. She is involved in Sustainable NJ. She would like to make Park Ridge a walkable town. There is a wellness campaign starting in April. The trail encompasses Hillside Terrace, and Henry Avenue and Fairview Avenue. The trail right now it goes from Fairview Avenue and it is circular pattern. Her intention is to create a foot trail on Hillside Terrace, without any signage. She would like to exit on Hillside Terrace.

There are no sidewalks. She is asking for permission to make a pathway. She wants to go up Hillside Terrace and exit there. There is a welcome sign on Fairview in Park Ridge. They want them to know about the public park, with benches on the path site. Mr. Hipolit stated she would need to take this to the Mayor and Council. It is a 2 ft. wide trail Ms. Thomson stated. Mr. Preston asked about parking on Hillside. Ms. Thomson stated it is for people to walk not to drive there and then walk. Also discussed was the four town Potential Inter-Municipal Trail Route. Ms. Thomson stated that it takes you to Mill Road and to Montvale where there is no sidewalk. She believes something needs to be done there. Mr. Hipolit stated that in Montvale they have improved it all in Montvale to Park Ridge. Park Ridge would need to connect their sidewalks. Mr. Hanrahan stated that they do not have the jurisdiction to approve or disapprove she would need to take her request to the Mayor and Council. Councilman Weaver was acknowledge as being present. Simon Eichhorn, Cub Scout, was welcomed at the meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Russo and seconded by Mr. Preston with all stating aye.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2016. Members will be emailed in the event the meeting is cancelled. The agenda will be posted on the Borough website. Members are reminded to notify the Secretary if they are unable to attend.

Respectively submitted:

R. Lorraine Hutter

Acting Secretary