

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, January 21, 2019 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location:

Executive Council Chambers - 2nd Floor, 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale

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)

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Hanrahan

Roll Call:

Carly De La Hoz (A), Daniel Eichhorn (P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen (A), Richard Johnson (P), Melinda Kelly (A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Planning Board Liaison Robert Zitelli (P), Council Liaison Dieter Koelling (P)

Approval of Minutes –November minutes - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Preston.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items – A motion to open was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Johnson

Meeting Closed to Public - Motion to close by L. Skoglund and seconded by D. Eichorn.

Communication/Correspondence: Welcome Lisa Anastasio, EC Secretary and Mr. Robert Zitelli (PB Liaison)

New Business:

Clean Up Day:

- Scheduled for April 13, 9am-12pm. The Clean Up Day Flyer will go in Feb and March Newsletter. Flyer also to be posted at Borough Hall.
- EC will get flyers posted among the community. Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts will be involved in distribution of flyers.
- If Wegmans or Bergen County (BC) can't provide free refillable plastic bottles for all volunteers, then Lisa Skoglund will investigate the cost of purchasing the bottles.
- Planning for light breakfast same as last year, request going to Wegmans and Dunkin Donuts. Bergen County to provide T-Shirts and some giveaways to volunteers.

Hornrock Properties:

- Overview of Landscaping Plans that were provided.
- Bob will draft a letter addressing the concerns of the EC to the Planning Board
- Proposing a visual screening (for residents) in the Southern portion of the property that lies in Montvale but will also suggest this screening line continues East and West into neighboring municipalities. Lisa S. suggests American Linden along with pollinators

should be on the plant/tree list as water and drainage with the amount of asphalt (parking lots) is a concern. EC would like their plans to incorporate park benches, walking paths, and native species.

Memorial Trail Proposal

- Tree removal (fallen and hazardous dead trees were cut and removed from trail path) has been completed.
- Bob will attend the February Mayor and Council (MC) budget meeting to seek approval for the Trail funds.
- Visual screening is proposed for Bayberry Dr residents whose property abuts the Trail.
- The Trail will be natural, bog bridge to be built over wetlands, will discuss other details once approval is granted by MC.

Huff Pond

- Boswell was involved with dredging of Huff Pond back in the 1980's, rule of thumb is this should be done approximately every 30 yrs.
- Pond has algae relate issues; also needs engineering work to correct the recirculation of water from/to Pascack Brook.
- Question was posed to fill in Huff Pond vs paying for the repairs and upkeep.
- Consensus was Huff Pond is used often by the community and Scout troops for fishing, and has been a fixture in Montvale for many generations.

Doppelt Family Fund Grant (Rails to Trails Organization)

- Bob submitted the proposal and plans for the Pascack Trail, to see if a grant could be obtained for part of the project. A decision will not be made until October 2019.

Radon Article/ Lead Contamination

- A letter authored by Bob Hanrahan regarding the dangers of high Radon levels in our homes.
- The letter may be published by the Record and/or the Montvale Newsletter. Suggestion to have this information on EC website.
- Recently Suez notified residents of possible lead contamination in our drinking water.
- Residents can contact Suez directly to determine if their home are affected.

NJ Beekeepers Association

- Lisa Skoglund prepared a report and spoke to the EC regarding the state of NJ is imposing stricter rules and regulations on Beekeepers in NJ.
- The Department of Agriculture is now saying each municipality can be responsible for beekeeping inspections, only if they choose to be.

Council Liaison Koelling Report – None

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Montvale Planning Board is continuing to work with Park Ridge and Woodcliff Lake to converge on an acceptable plan regarding Hornrock property.

Adjournment- At 9:50 pm a motion to adjourn was made by R. Johnson and seconded by L. Skoglund all in favor stating aye.