

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, May 20, 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:

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

Approval of Minutes – April minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by M. Jensen.

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

Meeting Closed to Public - Motion to close by R. Zitelli and seconded by L. Skoglund.

Communication/Correspondence: Chairman Hanrahan addressed the EC members present regarding sparse attendance of committee members and alternates. Currently, there is not an Attendance policy in place, but the EC may need to draft one in the future. The open second alternate position may soon be occupied. The EC is making an impact in Montvale. The Mayor and Council have faith in the committee and the EC needs to be able to support the tasks presented to them. Chairman also told the EC, that the ANJEC 2019 Open Space Stewardship Grant was denied. Chairman asked ANJEC to provide an answer as to why our application was denied. ANJEC's response is pending.

ANJEC Workshop: Mairead Jensen recently attended an ANJEC Environmental Commission workshop. She shared with the EC some of the important highlights of what she learned. Such as a need for alternate members, bi laws, a solid budget and an ERI. Chairman Hanrahan said he does have a draft of an ERI; however, Maser Engineering and Montvale Planning Board would need to be involved since the Master Plan is implicated.

New Business:

Residential encroachment and use of Borough owned space and wetlands

- The Chairman provided an in-depth explanation on what residential encroachment is, and how it impairs the Borough and taxpayers alike. Using the GIS interactive map, which is found on the EC website, an address can be entered and property boundary lines viewed. In terms of Wetlands, the DEP inspects suspected encroachment and a lien can be put on the property.
- Question for EC: Should we elevate this encroachment situation to Mayor and Council (MC) and suggest action be taken?

Plastic Bag Recycling Program

- The Trex Company sponsors a program to encourage recycling of plastic bags. If a certain quantity is recycled, Trex provides a park bench to the Borough.
- Randy will investigate to see if this is a viable project for the EC/Montvale and what needs to be done.

Chamber of Commerce Street Fair

- The EC would like to staff at table at the June 9th Street Fair, which is from 10am-5pm.
- The Secretary will email Scott Forman to request a table and chairs for the event.
- The schedule is as follows: Mairead Jensen (10am-12pm), Open (12pm -2pm), Lisa S., Regina and Bob Hanrahan (2pm- 5pm).
- Secretary will email EC for a volunteer for the 12pm – 2pm open time slot.

Old Business:

Spring Fling

- Thank you to Mairead Jensen, Dan Eichorn and Regina Hanrahan for manning a table on behalf of the EC. The public turnout was light; however, the attendees were interested in what the EC does and members discussed some of our current and future projects. The potential for plastic bags to be banned, was also a topic that drew some inquiries. Mairead also mentioned the raffle was very popular and attracted people over to the table.

Pascack Trail

- Site survey for the Trail is still in progress.
- EC reviewed a break out section of the survey that focused on the area behind Bayberry homes. There has been some pushback some residents whose property abuts the Trail location. Upon review of the Boswell survey that depicts the Bayberry property boundaries, residential encroachment appears to be present. The proposed Trail is an average of 20 feet off the back of the property lines. At one point, there is a 13-foot setback, due to a swale.
- Suggestion made to meet with the Bayberry property owners along with the Mayor to discuss screening options for the Trail.

Huff Pond

- Bergen County (BC) Mosquito Control released about 300 Fathead Minnows into Huff Pond which will help with the algae and mosquito problems.
- BC DPW to clean out the intake and outtake valves, basic cleaning will help water flow and mosquito problem for the short term.
- Proposed work on the pond should commence in late Fall 2019, once funding is secured.

Council Liaison Koelling Report – Councilman Koelling reported there are a number of overgrown bushes and trees that surround Huff pond. Chairman will email Maureen Iarossi-Alwan and Jeff Fette to ask the PVDPW for their assistance in a clean-up effort. Idea of a foot bridge to the ‘island’ in Huff Pond. This brings up safety concerns, but Chairman will discuss with Boswell Engineering.

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Mr. Zitelli reported the Metropolitan Homes project on Spring Valley Road is completed. Phase 1 of the Triboro project (old Mercedes property), was approved by the Planning board. Phase 2 for Triboro is still under discussion. Hornrock is still being discussed and is challenging due to involvement of three towns.

Adjournment- At 9:55 pm a motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen all in favor stating aye.