

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday June 17, 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 (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 (A)

Approval of Minutes – May Minutes - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by D.Eichorn, with modification.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Veri who reside at 45 Woodland Rd. Montvale, NJ were present and discussed with EC their Tree permit and application dated May 22, 2019. Chairman Hanrahan requested the Veri's to ribbon off all of the trees to be removed and re-submit an updated plan to the Building Department.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Gloeggler and her two daughters, Ettie and Evie Eggers were also in attendance. Ettie who attends Fieldstone Middle School and Evie a student at Memorial both expressed an interest in helping the EC with a plastic bag recycling project in partnership with the Trex Corporation. Both girls will be speaking to their school Principals to see if Fieldstone and Memorial can be used as drop off points. Possibly begin project in September 2019, details need to be worked out. EC would like to thank Ettie and Evie for their interest and participation.

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

Communication/Correspondence: *The Montvale Environmental Commission* received an Adopt a Beach award/plaque from New Jersey Clean Communities program in response to the EC's hard work and performance for our town wide event year after year.

New Business:

Annual Maintenance of defined locations

- The Chairman and EC discussed setting aside a budget for specific outdoor locations that would benefit from an annual maintenance contract, beyond what is provided by the PVDPW. EC was polled and found the following locations to be in most need of maintenance:
 1. North and South park areas of the Montvale Train Station.
 2. Borough Hall- front, side and rear properties including the library entrance.
 3. Memorial Drive Borough owned properties:
 - 3a Huff Park
 - 3b Huff Pond
 - 3c Pascack Trail
 4. Field #11 located at Schoolhouse #2 (former Montvale Library site on Grand Ave.)
 5. Environmental Learning Center
- Chairman Hanrahan will reach out to Mayor Ghassali for resident feedback on other properties that may also benefit from a maintenance contract.

45 Woodland Rd. Block 1401 Lot 6 Tree Permit

- As previously noted under Public Agenda, Chairman Hanrahan asked the homeowners to ribbon off all trees to be removed and resubmit and updated plan and permit to the Building Department.

Summit Trail

- Chairman Hanrahan and the Mayor walked the property, nicely wooded and pristine.
- EC members are invited to investigate the area, as the Mayor has asked the EC to lead the effort.
- Approximately 20 acres of land for outdoor walking and hiking trails. One third of the property is wetlands.
- The proposed trail will be developed and maintained by the builder, with specific parking area for the public.
- Site drawings are expected soon. Chairman suggests to reach out to NYNJ Trail Conference for input on this project.

Old Business:

Trex Plastic Bag Recycling Program

- The Trex Company sponsors a program to encourage recycling of plastic bags. If 500 lbs. of plastic is recycled, Trex provides a park bench to the Borough.
- EC to discuss logistics of drop off locations, and start date.
- The Acme on Chestnut Ridge Rd will receive and weigh the plastic that is collected.
- Suggestion to use Social Media, or the Mayor's Newsletter as a source to get the word out about this project.

Chamber of Commerce Street Fair

- Over 20, 000 people were in attendance. Very successful, Chairman handed out reusable bags and had discussions with members of the public discussing the objectives of the EC. Many thanks for Mairead, Lisa Skoglund, Lisa Anastasio, Bob and Regina Hanrahan for helping out during the Street Fair. Suggestions for next year: A banner identifying the Montvale Environmental Commission, and a Canopy.

Pascack Trail

- Chairman Hanrahan met with Councilman Arendacs regarding concerns from Bayberry neighbors. The neighbors would like access to the trail to begin on the south side of the gate located on Memorial drive. This should not be an issue. Additionally, a request for a minimum setback of 15 feet off the rear property lines is being considered, however, Mr. Mike Kelly needs to revisit the site before he can say with certainty. Chairman requested Councilman Arendacs organize a meeting between the EC Chair and the Bayberry neighbors in the near future to discuss screening options.

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. Chairman Hanrahan still waiting for BCDPW to get to Huff Pond.

Council Liaison Koelling Report – Councilman Koelling was absent. No report.

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Mr. Zitelli reported the Planning Board had some concerns with the Hornrock plan regarding access roads. Hornrock came back with a revised plan, Planning Board will discuss at their next meeting. Mr. Zitelli also mentioned Hornrock is taking into consideration the landscaping and screening suggestions that were made in January 2019 by the EC.

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