

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday September 16, 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 (P), Richard Johnson (A), Melinda Kelly(A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Planning Board Liaison Robert Zitelli (P), Council Liaison Dieter Koelling (P), Secretary Lisa Anastasio (P).

Approval of Minutes – August Minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by Preston.

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

Members of the Public present were Montvale residents Lisa Depellegrini and Vicki Solis who are interested in serving on the EC as Alternate Committee members. Lisa and Vicki both shared some of their environmental experience and discussed why they were interested in becoming a Member of the EC.

Meeting Closed to Public - Motion to close by D. Eichhorn and seconded by M. Jensen.

Communication/Correspondence: Chairman Hanrahan and members of the EC also met with volunteers for the Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling program (MPBR) on September 16, 2019. Overview of the program was discussed via a Power Point presentation. Volunteers received translucent plastic liners for the receptacles, disposable gloves, and posters identifying different types of plastic and what is allowed to be recycled for this program. Volunteers were also tasked with maintaining a Spreadsheet to record weight and drop off dates of the plastic bags to Stop and Shop. All of this information is available online.

New Business:

2020 Budget for Future Trail Maintenance

The Chairman was asked by Borough Administrator, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan to budget funds in 2020 which would encompass maintenance of defined areas/ guidelines of the Pascack Trail and Huff Pond approximately 3 to 4 times a year. EC members were polled and offered the following ideas and suggestions to Trail and Pond maintenance:

- Rely on the Public to pick up garbage along the Trail, and have garbage receptacles at the beginning and end of the Trail.
- Create a Friends of the EC volunteer List
- Adopt a Trail idea – Teachers and Students would each take a month to walk the trail and Huff Park. Can also invite Scouts, MAL, and Montvale corporations to help out.
- The PVDPW should still monitor the Trail and empty the receptacles that are placed there.
- Create a calendar for each month with the exception of December through February, and assign a different organization or class to a month and ask for feedback on Trail maintenance status.

Day in the Park

- Day in the Park is Saturday Sept. 21, 2019 from 3pm to 7pm.
- The EC will staff a table at the event. Dan Eichhorn and Bob Zitelli from 3pm to 5pm. Randy Preston will be there from 5pm to 7pm.
- Chairman will coordinate with Dan Eichhorn for printed materials, handouts and giveaways for the public.
- If possible, as people come up to the EC table, create a list of volunteers who express interest in the EC.

Kingspoint Trail

- The EC reviewed a site plan from Waypoint Developers dated August 15, 2019, with focus on the defined trail plans.
- The EC was under the impression that one integrated walking system would be developed for both private and public residents to enjoy.
- Members of the EC were interested in the motivation to split the trail into two separate paths, when they could easily interconnect with the use of a bog bridge.
- The EC does not see this current plan as attractive, as open space is being reduced.
- Maintenance, security and ease of access for emergency vehicles were also discussed
- Chairman Hanrahan will draft a letter to the Montvale Planning Board addressing the concerns of the EC.

Old Business:

Pascack Trail

- Currently waiting on Boswell Engineering to provide a schedule depicting the time frame on the DEP permits.
- An Eagle Scout project is under consideration to create Trailheads along Pascack Trail. Mairead Jensen is in contact with the Scout.
- Trail blazing may begin in late 2019 or Spring 2020.

Huff Pond

- Chairman Hanrahan spearheaded a volunteer-based clean-up of Huff Pond on September 8, 2019. Members of the EC, Troop 334 and the Montvale Fire Department raked large amounts of algae from the pond's surface. In addition, the DEP tested the water quality and it was determined to be safe.
- Boswell Engineering will be providing scheduling of DEP permits.
- The dredging of Huff Pond may commence during Spring 2020. The dredging would be the first step in pond refurbishment. The soil that is removed will be tested by the DEP. If not contaminated, soil will be stored on the former Swim Club property. If contaminated, DEP will advise.

EC Activity List

- The Chairman reviewed the EC Activity List with members.

Council Liaison Koelling Report – Councilman Koelling wished to thank Chairman Hanrahan for his efforts and work in cleaning up the algae in Huff pond. Great for the community and volunteers to come out and be involved in this project.

Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report – Mr. Zitelli reported Kingsland Trail was not on the Planning Board Agenda for Sept. 17th. Single family homes proposed on a 6-acre lot located on Magnolia Ave. Residents in the area concerned with water and drainage issues. Engineers will be reviewing the site plans.

Adjournment- At 9:17 pm a motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen all in favor stating aye.