

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Time:**

Monday November 18, 2019 – 7:45pm

**Meeting Location:**

Executive Council Chambers - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

**Lisa DePellegrini (P), Daniel Eichhorn (P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen (P), Richard Johnson (P), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Vicki Solis (P), Planning Board Liaison Robert Zitelli (P), Council Liaison Dieter Koelling (A), Secretary Lisa Anastasio (P).**

**Approval of Minutes** – October Minutes - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen.

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

**Members of the Public Present:** Mr. Dan Sawitz, Troop 334 Scoutmaster and Mr. Frank Rossi from Boswell Engineering. (see Pascack Trail section under Old Business for comments).

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

**Communication/Correspondence:** Chairman Hanrahan spoke to the EC regarding posting personal opinions on social media forums. The EC is a public organization and discretion must be used when commenting on social media, as a personal idea or belief can be misrepresented as a conclusion of the EC. Mr. Zitelli commented he is wary of social media sites that are unsubstantiated, and suggests a way to share details could be in the form of an email alert that is issued when relevant information is either posted to the EC landing page or Montvale.org website.

## **New Business:**

### Friends of the EC

- Chairman Hanrahan would like to start a distribution list of volunteers who could support the EC in various projects that the committee is tasked with. Lisa DePellegrini will assist with this endeavor. Details to be determined.

### Recycling Landing Page

- The Recycling landing page on the Borough website is lacking in details and accurate recycling information that would benefit Montvale residents and provide answers to common recycling questions.
- Chairman Hanrahan will be addressing these concerns with Councilman Arendacs, who is the DPW liaison. Fellow EC members are encouraged to be part of this conversation and make proactive suggestions.

## **Old Business:**

### Pascack Trail

- Mr. Frank Rossi from Boswell Engineering is present at the meeting. The EC reviewed the changes to the Pascack Trail which were outlined in blue.
- Installation of a pipe that would cross the Trail to Pascack Brook will have a headwall on each side and covered with dirt. No bog bridge is needed. A detailed section of the pipe will be provided by Boswell.
- Boswell will file for DEP permits early December.
- Chairman Hanrahan reviewed natural edging options with the EC. He took pictures while visiting the three trails (Artesian Field, Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve and Goffle Brook Park). The natural edging option was well received from the EC.  
Chairman Hanrahan asked for a motion to accept the edging design for Pascack Trail as a natural surface. The motion was seconded by M. Jensen. The motion was approved by roll call vote.
- Chairman Hanrahan called for a motion to accept the Pascack Trail plan outlined in blue as Boswell presented, and to move forward with DEP applications. Denoted on the plan are (2) park benches, (4) trash receptacles, (2) trail heads. The motion was seconded by L. Skoglund. The motion was approved by roll call vote.
- Dan Sawitz of Troop 334 asked if the Trail can be blazed ahead of receiving permits. Mr. Rossi said yes, but no heavy equipment is allowed to be used.

### Montvale Plastic Bag Update

- The program has exceeded the goal of 500lbs of plastic. At the end of October, 582 lbs. had been collected.
- Chairman Hanrahan spoke with Trex, and starting in March, Montvale will be eligible to collect another 500lbs., with the intention of earning a second bench.
- Randy Preston reports that he needs help dropping off the recycled plastic bags to Stop and Shop located in Nanuet, NY. Also shares a concern as the bags are getting wet from rain and snow. Need to find a dry location at Recycling Center.

### Huff Pond

- Mr. Rossi gave the EC a brief history on the dredging of Huff Pond, as he was present in mid-1980, when the pond was last dredged.
- Boswell will provide scheduling of DEP permits for Huff Pond.
- No further action or review at this time.

### Kingspoint Trail

- No updates at this time.

**Council Liaison Koelling Report** – Councilman Koelling was not in attendance.

**Planning Board Liaison Zitelli Report** – Mr. Zitelli reported there has not been a Planning Board meeting since the last EC meeting in October, so no updates at this time.

**Adjournment-** At 9:30 pm a motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Johnson all in favor stating aye.