

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MONTHLY MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, July 19, 2021 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Go to www.zoom.us click JOIN A MEETING and enter the meeting number shown below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83448644172?pwd=UHBxS3NvUWdNdzBpRm82Z3ZkTldkUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 4864 4172

Passcode: 977442

Or by phone: US toll call: + 1 929 436 2866

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)

Roll Call:

Members: Lisa De Pellegrini (P), Daniel Eichhorn (P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen(A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (P), Vicki Solis (A), Michelle Zink-Jojic (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P), EC Intern Shannon Stemper (P)

Approval of Minutes – June 21, 2021- A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and second by D. Eichhorn.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items – no public present

Communication/Correspondence: no communication/correspondence

New Business:

- Tree Removal Request – Block 1301, Lot 20, Zone R-40 (20 Donnybrook Road)
 - Application as originally submitted was not compliant with borough code because it was missing compensatory tree planting.
 - Chairman Hanrahan reached out to resident to explain the ordinance and asked applicant to modify the application.
 - Residents were happy to comply once they understood the ordinance.
 - The home is scheduled to be demolished. The tree removal application must be reviewed based upon the current circumstances.
 - Agreement to wait until after construction for compliance.
 - Recommendations from the EC: Blue Spruces, Douglas Fir, White Pines (deer resistant).

Approval of tree removal request submitted by property owner for Block 1301, Lot 20, Zone R-40 (20 Donnybrook Road) A roll call vote was made and approved the request as follows: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Daniel Eichhorn(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen (absent)

Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Vicki Solis (absent), Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes) Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)

- Borough Tree Removal Policy
 - Policy is the code. R. Hanrahan met with the Building Department to review the code and ensure all expectations/questions of residents are answered and communication between departments is efficient.
 - Consensus was that we are not seeing clearcutting at present and the tree ordinance has helped.

Comments from the EC members on publicizing the ordinance:

- Language was added to the tree brochure stating that Montvale has a tree ordinance.
 - Searchable information on the borough website.
 - Communicate with/educate local tree contractors.
 - Install a sign or plaque in town.
 - Add information to bulletin display at Memorial Park.
 - Display a sign at our tent on Day in the Park informing residents that Montvale has a tree ordinance.
- Open Spaces
 - Shannon is working on open space inventory past/current history.
 - R. Hanrahan shared a tree inventory that is approximately 8 to 9 years old which is a good starting point/can be updated.
 - Some grants require a tree inventory.
 - We can start a database using the tree removal application information.
 - Fundraising
 - Discussion includes fundraising for trail, land acquisition, and crossing light to connect to other municipal trails.
 - We require committee members to take the lead. R. Hanrahan ask EC committee for any members interested in working on fundraising.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Day in the Park – Bat Education with Chris Volk.
 - Boy Scouts might help the EC with build and distribute of bat houses
 - EC member suggestions:
 - An event to show off finished projects/bat houses.
 - Families/children sign up at Day in the Park to get a bat house kit. Boy Scouts could do the prep work and prepare kits before distribution.
 - Distribute plans for families to construct bat houses at home.
 - Mass produce kits to be distributed at Day in the Park. Hold a contest and announce a winner the week of Halloween; create enthusiasm for the project.
- Pascack Trail Update (Robert Hanrahan) –
 - Boy Scouts will install 3 benches on the trail and replace fence.
 - Trail was marked by Vicki and Joe Solis and Ellen Riccardi.
 - Trail signs are installed.

- Shannon and Bob initiated a discussion with the fire chief regarding a traffic light on Grand Ave to allow road crossing and be used for Fire and Police activity. To be discussed with John DePinto (Planning and Zoning).
- Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan) –
 - The water is flowing in and out/check valve is working. The pond has water.
 - Soil has been removed
 - Fence will come down soon.
 - Planting of new trees will begin end of September.
 - Fish will be stocked in September.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairedad Jensen) –
 - The program will continue until the end of the year
 - M. Jensen/V. Solis/R. Preston have been transporting bags to Stop and Shop.
 - Plastic Bag Legislation – November begins state roll out starting with business before residential regulation.
 - EC will distribute a flyer for roll out.
 - Beginning in May 2022 Styrofoam containers and plastic bags will not be allowed.
 - The EC will update the Facebook page with information as it becomes available.
 - Shopping bag give away at Day in the Park on August 28th
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund) – No news to report
- Community/Pollinator Garden Update – ANJEC Grant (Pollinator Garden)
 - 10 x 15 ft. Pollinator Garden.
 - Shannon met with Girl Scout to work on planting plans.
 - Garden will be built in the next few weeks and planting will occur in September.
 - Small Bocce court will be built in the same vicinity.
 Community Garden
 - EC is waiting for Mayor & Council budget/direction
 - Andy Hipolit/Borough Engineer is in agreement that a Community Garden will not interfere with any potential construction.
 - Location to be on the north side of swim club property.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – no news to report

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Use permits on current agenda.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by D. Eichhorn all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, August 16, 2021