

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Webex

Go to www.webex.com click JOIN and enter the meeting number shown below.

Meeting number 1 (access code):

<https://rhanrahan.my.webex.com/rhanrahan.my/j.php?MTID=mc58e7269f75a20a8778a440635eef0b9>

Meeting Number: # 132 262 4096

Or by phone: US toll call: + 1-408-418-9388

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 (P), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (A), Vicki Solis (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P)

Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2020 Minutes – A Motion to approve was made by M. Jensen, and seconded by R. Hanrahan.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items: No motion made – N/A

Meeting Closed to Public: No motion made – N/A

Communication/Correspondence:

- We were contacted by the Board President of Woodland Heights HOA for guidance on tree removal. R. Hanrahan provided guidance on borough rules and provided DEP contact information so they can reach out directly to help understand state regulations and obligations.
- A high school senior reached out to Councilman Arendacs regarding sponsoring a recycling program for the borough. The student started an LLC on e-recycling. We are connecting him with the DPW and looking into providing public information about electronics recycling and its advantages.

New Business:

- Update on Bid Award (Huff Pond Renovation)
 - Contract was awarded to the lowest bidder submitted; Downes Tree Service located in Park Ridge.
 - R. Hanrahan worked in collaboration with borough Administrator M. Iarossi, Council Liaison C. Roche and Councilman Arendacs to make sure the borough is able to move forward with funding for the Huff Pond Renovation.

- Meeting scheduled with the Bergen County DPW for 1/12/21 to discuss ways they can help with project, i.e. man power, equipment, etc.
- C. Roche – suggests the county store the soil as a way to cut costs.
- R. Hanrahan responds: We may be able to locate a storage area for the soil. The soil cannot be stored on any of our protected lands or held for longer than 6 months.
- Anticipated completion of the renovation is mid spring barring any major obstacles from weather events.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging –
 - L. Skoglund provided research on EV project and found some solar charging companies. A lot of companies are taking advantage of renewable energy.
 - R. Hanrahan contacted some companies who will help the borough with installing charging stations. The borough would purchase the equipment and the cost for charging vehicles would be up to the purchaser (the borough).
 - Suggestion to starting with 2 charging stations at the library. Vehicle charging requires several hours.
 - There is grant money available. E. Riccardi will research grant opportunities which could significantly decrease costs. L. Skoglund will collaborate on the project.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update - L. De Pellegrini – nothing new to report
- Pascack Trail Update

R. Hanrahan states the trail is already being used by the community which is helping to tamp the path.

 - V. Solis ordered 4 signs that read “trail”; brown with white lettering. One has an arrow pointing to the left.
 - M. Jensen is helping with trail markers. Will help keep people on track.
 - Anchor Fence Contractors arrived today (1/11/21) to start digging holes for 6 foot posts. The fence will be black epoxy powder coated chain link with green vinyl slats.
 - Two safety fences (black chain link/no slats) will be installed around the two headwalls. We are following the Boswell Engineering recommendation of a 3 foot height. Trees/living screen can be planted in front of the fence for an additional barrier. R. Hanrahan suggests asking Montvale residents who are disposing of old landscaping to donate livescape to the trail. We can use to create a screen between the recycle center and the trail. Also, we can ask landscapers to let us know if they are going to dispose of any healthy shrubs. A variety of plantings is beneficial.
 - Several locations on the trail next to the firehouse and near the DPW require boulders to be moved from the Pascack Brook up to the trail and used for retention. Further information on dates to complete the work will come when the temperatures rises to the 40’s.
 - R. Hanrahan will have more information regarding the progress of the renovation and anticipated completion dates.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update
 - R. Preston and D. Eichorn are leading the initiative in collaboration with other volunteers.
 - Program has been very successful.
 - We require transport of bags to Stop and Shop.
 - Some residents are co-mingling recycling with the plastic bags. Suggestion to remind residents not to mix any other items with the plastics for the Trexx program.

- We have collected over 527 lbs of plastic bags. We already have our 2nd bench. We would like to put the collection site in an outdoor location that is more visible.
- Signage
 - The DPW requires improved signage at the recycling center. Residents are inadvertently mixing the recycling and dumping inappropriate waste. There are some contaminated loads being dropped there that are making it difficult to manage.
 - R. Preston suggests we speak with the DPW and discuss permanent signage.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche:

- Douglas Arendacs and Rose Curry were sworn in last week.
- Chris Roche will return as the 2021 liaison to the Environmental Commission.
- Discussion with L. Bent about a spring event to bring in different organizations. Suggest we merge the event with the Environmental Commission’s grand opening of Huff Pond and the Pascack Trail.
- Will revisit as we get dates for the completion of the trail and pond.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli – not in attendance - N/A

Adjournment

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2021