

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

### Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, May 16, 2022 – 7:45pm

### Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776552091?pwd=Q1hXRHNRbHgrYTg1di9va29jU1VvUT09>

**Meeting ID: 857 7655 2091**

**Passcode: 845238**

**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), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(P), Mairead Jensen(A), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Vicki Solis(A), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)**

**Approval of Minutes** – April 18, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by L. Skoglund.

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

**Meeting Closed to Public** - A motion to close was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by R. Zitelli.

### New Business:

- Tree Removal Permit Request – 19 Brook Avenue, Block 501, Lot 522, R15 property
  - Applicant in attendance.
  - This home is at the end of the cul-de-sac on a dead-end street. The property is adjacent to the Pascack Brook, a category 1 waterway, in the rear of the property which also passes through the property.
  - There is some designated wetlands on the property, no LOI or DEP paperwork.
  - Applicant's intention is to install a pool in the rear yard.
  - Architecture landscaping plan performed by landscape architect from Park Ridge. Plantings focus on the area around the pool and surrounding area.
  - No obvious work done to date but proposed work to be started shortly.
  - Applicant states he is planning on planting trees along the back fence line where the trees will be removed across the rear. Sunnyside Drive abuts the property.
  - Pascack brook is off to the west.
  - Fence heading out toward wet area.
  - R. Hanrahan counted 27 trees to be removed.

### **Questions or Discussion Points from the EC members:**

Questions/suggestions from the EC members: Are there any problems/trouble with the brook?

Suggestion that the homeowner may miss the canopy that the trees provide once they have been removed.

Applicant: States there has never been any problems. Planting will likely be more than what is being removed. When the plan was developed with the design architect applicant asked him what needs to be replaced and what should be planted there. They are open to planting different varieties of trees. The trees don't need to be removed to install the pool. They would prefer to plant some more attractive trees and trees that would be more conducive to their plan. If any compensatory plantings are missing from the submitted design applicant is willing add them in order to meet the requirements. Planning on planting trees along the fence line for privacy. He is hoping to have tree removal permit approved this evening.

R. Hanrahan: States that the trees which are requested to be removed are within the protected zone. Compensatory planting will be required per Montvale's tree ordinance. Inquiries what the compensatory planting plan is. Also states, there are some healthy white pines on the property and other than the potential clean-up of the pool; some of these tree do not need to be removed. States that according to the tree ordinance the compensatory plantings need to be 2 inch caliper or greater. Currently, the plan does not comply with the ordinance, based on the planting list attached. There is no DEP paperwork to indicate wetlands. This is a category 1 waterway where there is a 300 foot protection zone. Proposal to have applicant provide some information regarding compensatory plantings, location and type of trees on a drawing. We need to know roughly where they will be and the type/species of trees. Asks applicant to speak to the landscape architect for updated plans.

C. Roche: Suggest we allow the homeowner to move forward with the removal of the tree, and make the building permit contingent upon submitting the updated plans.

R. Hanrahan: Proposal to discuss an approval letter with the understanding that the applicant will leave a minimum of 4 trees (currently marked for removal) on the northern rear of the property (specific trees to remain to be the choice of the applicant). Building permit will be contingent on the resubmission of plans showing the compensatory planting of the trees being removed (approximately 20).

**Approval of tree removal contingent upon the understanding that a minimum of 4 trees (currently marked for removal) on the northern rear of the property of applicant's choice will remain. Building permit will be contingent on the resubmission of plans showing the compensatory planting of the trees being removed (approximately 20) for the property located at 19 Brook Avenue, Block 501, Lot 522. A roll call vote was made and approved the request as follows: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(absent), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Vicki Solis(absent), Antonio Vozzolo (yes) Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)**

### **Old Business:**

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
  - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
    - In the process of collecting enough wood to complete the project. We currently have 2 garbage pails full of wood pieces.

- L. DePellegrini – Currently trying to secure a presenter from the Botanical Gardens to discuss perennials.
- L. Skoglund – Suggests to also request information from the Botanical Gardens regarding rain gardens.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update/Montvale Clean Up Day/Arbor Day Event – April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Robert Hanrahan)
  - Over 72 participants attended. Thank you for everyone who helped.
  - Approximately 600 pounds of trash was collected.
  - A. Vozzolo – Received a comment from a resident that spring break interfered with a larger turnout of participants.
  - We distributed over 150 trees.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
  - We still have a lot of plastic bags to deliver to Stop and Shop.
  - Let's see what the next few months bring after the NJ Plastic ban has been in place for several months.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)
  - No news to report
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - Waiting for guidance from Mayor and Council.
- Pollinator Garden
  - R. Hanrahan requests L. DePellegrini to connect with the girl scouts regarding the completion of the pollinator garden.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
  - Barbara Davis will be reporting to us this week.
  - She has made remarkable progress on the plan.
  - We need to schedule a meeting with the Mayor and Council where Barbara Davis will present to the tentative draft plan before it is finalized.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
  - Has been in contact the Department of Transportation and is in the process of setting up a meeting with their liaison (Bill Revere).
  - R. Hanrahan – States the sidewalk and the bike path are different and will require different options.
- Arbor Day and Tree City
  - Signage will go up at Red Shed, both ends of Kinderkamack Road, both ends of Chestnut Ridge Road, both ends of Grand Avenue and one in the center town.
  - Mayor agrees to signage in Montvale.
  - We can also consider a new Welcome to Montvale sign.
  - Robert Zitelli provided to the EC members information on sign permits. There is code to follow.

#### **Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche**

- R. Hanrahan presented to the Mayor and Council last week on Tree City.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Street Fair – L. DePellegrini, L. Skoglund and R. Preston have agreed to help at the EC table.

#### **Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli**

- Western Union building will be renovated and turned into a rehabilitation facility with a capacity of 100 beds.
- Valley Medical is in the process of developing a Surgical Center at DiPieros.
- A day care center and Montvale Health and Spine will be moving to the development currently going on below Wegmans.

R. Preston: Comments on the topic of properties changing ownership and how the EC can provide new residents with information on the tree ordinance.

- Ellen will look into the process at the borough and investigate how we can convey tree ordinance information to new residents.
- C. Roche: suggest putting the ordinance number under the Tree City signs.

**Adjournment-** – A motion to adjourn was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by L. Skoglund all in favor stating aye.

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, June 20, 2022**