

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, December 14, 2020 – 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=m9f00848309f67df96a02116eba325d0b>

Meeting Number: #132 238 9339

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 (A), Daniel Eichhorn (A), Chairman Robert Hanrahan (P), Mairead Jensen (A), Randall Preston (P), Lisa Skoglund (A), Vicki Solis (P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli (P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche (P)

Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2020 – A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by V. Solis.

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

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

Communication/Correspondence:

New Business:

- Update on Bid Award (Huff Pond Renovation):
 - 10 bids returned. The lowest quote submitted was above our current budget and the initial proposal.
 - Proposal reviewed with Boswell for ways to reduce costs. Review of proposal did not result in the potential for cost reduction. All line items in the initial proposal are required.
 - Commissioner Hanrahan working with Borough administration to decide on next steps.
 - Committee discussion regarding economic viability of the renovation project and level of community use.

- Borough Electronic Vehicle (EV) Investigation
 - Requires research into the following:
 - Cost of operation
 - Potential corporate sponsorship

- Types of vehicles available and best options
- Commissioner Hanrahan requests committee members to research other municipalities and their progress.
- Suggestion of the possibility of a tram as a future solution. Request research into its effects on the environment and its' potential viability.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update –
- Pascack Trail Update
 - V. Solis: Trail markings are a great educational tool; will revisit implementing January 2021.
 - E. Riccardi – collaboration with EC members V. Solis, M. Jensen, and other committee members on signage and trail marking.
 - Discussion of signage at the Bayberry entrance and Grand Avenue exit; possibility of signage directing hikers back to Bayberry to complete the loop.
 - Thank you to Steve Rich and Rich Baviello Landscaping for their wonderful work on the trail and donation of labor, time and equipment. The trail is now tamped professionally.
 - Benches will be installed in 3 separate locations: two within the trail's wooded area and one outside near the end of the trail.
 - 3 garbage pails are to be installed.
 - Delay of Fence Installation along Bayberry properties: The 526 foot fence will be installed shortly; installation should only take a few days.
 - There was a delay in delivery with the manufacturer. We are hoping to receive the fence to the stockroom today.
 - Installation will be a two-step process as follows:
 1. Installation of the chain link fence.
 2. Installation of the green slats.
- Bat houses:
 - Require maintenance/reinstallation.
- Recycling Bag Program/Update:
 - Commissioner Hanrahan thanks Randy Preston, Mairead Jensen and Vicki and Joe Solis for doing miraculous work maintaining the recycling bag program.
 - We have collected 517 lbs. of plastic this collection cycle. We have already surpassed the 500 pounds required for the second bench.
- Wetland restoration program:
 - Restoration of the wetland near Huff Pond will require eradication of the Japanese Knotweed – good group project.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche:

- Discussion of upcoming budget.
- Increased costs due to COVID.
- Lost revenue from closing of hotel in borough.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli:

- The last meeting was December 1st; the next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2021.
- Wade Point – putting in 150 residential units.
- Use permits: smaller offices in office buildings are resulting in increased use permits.

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Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by V. Solis all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, January 11, 2021