

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, March 15, 2021 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

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

Link to Join Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84662328715?pwd=TnlqR1I0MHpvaysvdVRaYnk3eEoxUT09>

Meeting Number: # 846 6232 8715

Meeting Passcode: Passcode: 413997

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

Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes - A motion to approve was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by V. Solis.

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

Members of the Public Present: Montvale residents Eric Aiello and Bart Ciszkowski are in attendance.

New Business:

- **Tree Removal Request – Block 204, Lot 1 (106 Upper Saddle River Road)** – Tree removal application submitted by property owner, Eric Aiello. Construction on property to include installation of a swimming pool. Homeowner is removing trees to provide appropriate room for the construction and removing trees that have gone into a state of disrepair.
 - R. Hanrahan: When removing trees from a protected zone there is a 1:1 compensatory replacement requirement stated in the borough ordinance. The construction plans have a buffer zone. 7 trees are to be removed that are above the required 6 inch diameter at breast height. Other trees are being removed that are outside the ordinance.
 - Members of the commission are in agreement to proceed with approval of the tree removal request.
 - M. Jensen suggests plantings as a buffer.

- Eric Aiello, homeowner comments: There are plans to add some trees. Initially, there was a plan to plant trees on the east border of the property but the neighbor recently planted some trees in the area and planting more would be repetitive. The decision of where to plant trees will come down to an aesthetic standpoint and trees will be planted in locations to maximize effective utility.
- L. DePellegrini: Suggests planting hardwood trees as opposed to arborvitaes.
- R. Hanrahan: Diversification is important. Plantings should be native, bug resistant and deer resistant. The removal of some of the trees will help the remaining ones. Suggests Leland Cypress, White Pine or Red Oak as possible planting choices.
- Property owner in agreement with making 7 compensatory plantings.

Approval of tree removal request submitted by property owner for Block 204, Lot 1 (106 Upper Saddle River 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(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Vicki Solis(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(abstain)

- **Tree Removal Request – Block 902, Lot 7 (12 Candlelight Drive)** – Tree removal application submitted by property owner, Bart Ciszkowski. Construction on property to include installation of a swimming pool. Removing trees to provide appropriate room for the construction and removing trees that have gone into a state of disrepair. Not less than 100 and up to 200 trees will be planted on the property. Plantings will be staggered to allow for a natural look.
 - Bart Ciszkowski, homeowner comments: I would like to fence the back and install some green giants. Once the pool construction is complete, I would plant more trees where I see appropriate spaces. Planting four trees around the pool with some flowers on them as well as other plantings. Some of the trees being taken down are in disrepair. Consultation with a tree expert resulted in advisement that the trees will have to come down within the next few years. Homeowner estimates planting more than 200 trees on the property.
 - R. Hanrahan: Has visited the property and supports the request. The homeowner is committed to planting new trees.
 - All members of the commission are in support of the request. Suggestions from commission members to include native hardwoods.

Approval of tree removal request submitted by property owner for Block 902, Lot 7 (12 Candlelight Drive) 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(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Vicki Solis(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(yes)

Meeting Closed to Public: A motion to close was made by R. Zitelli and seconded by M. Jensen.

New Business:

- Clean-Up Day 2021 – Saturday, April 10th
 - R. Hanrahan made a request to the County of Bergen for a donation of the following items to be distributed to Clean-Up Day participants: t-shirts, masks, reusable shopping bags and any other handouts.
 - Article announcing event will be published in the Pascack Press.

- Announcement to go on borough website and posted to the sign outside Memorial Park.
- The Mayor has announced the event.
- Announcement email sent to Friends of the Montvale EC.
- Local boy/girl scout troops will participate.
- Masks and social distancing will be enforced.
- L. DePellegrini and L. Skoglund will help organize the participants. Thank you both for your help last year and for your help with this year's event.
- E. Riccardi will submit a work order request to the DPW to have tables/chairs and cones delivered to the event.
- Clean-up day will be held rain or shine.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Several more residents have joined our Facebook group, Friends of the Montvale Environmental Commission.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - The weather has caused delays in the work schedule.
 - Huff Pond will be shut down and a safety fence will be installed around the pond. The project should start within the next week.
 - R. Hanrahan has made requests to the community for donations of any unwanted shrubbery and trees. They can be used on the trail. We have volunteers who will help to plant them by the DPW/recycling center and trail to create a screen.
 - V. Solis ordered and received trail signs. They will be installed on trees or on posts.
 - M. Jensen and V. Solis are in discussion about marking the trail with traditional trail markers.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
 - Thank you to M. Jensen for the work she has been doing on the Trex recycling program.
 - We have collected and delivered over 1000 lbs. of plastic bags in the past 5 months. The majority were hand delivered by M. Jensen. We are nearing the end of the program. We will start again with another 6 month program which will bring us to the end of the year.
 - We have collected a total of 3415 pounds of plastic bags.
 - M. Jensen has designed signs for the shed, senior center and the library. Thank you Mairead for your hard work.
- Electric Vehicle update (Lisa Skogland)
 - R. Hanrahan has been in contact with several companies who can assist with the project and help with state/federal grant monies. Project would results in the installation of an EV charging station at the borough/library.
- Storm Water Ordinance
 - We are required to have an updated ordinance on storm water management.
 - Montvale has 7 category 1 drinking water waterways.
 - Maser Engineering approved the ordinance.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche:

- Mayor and council meeting discussed a traffic study with Masur Engineering regarding development on Schoolhouse Road in Chestnut Ridge, New York. Developers will be building a school as well as a 10 or 15 acre distribution center, brownstones and a mixed use area located near the horse stable. Development will be impactful on traffic and the environment (tree removal).

Planning Board Report – Robert Zitelli:

- Solar array installation at Mobius. Will be up for voting on Tuesday, March 16th.
- Way Point – Proposed 157 unit development. We have been in discussion with the developer for over a year.

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

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2021