

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, March 21, 2022 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall/Conference Room 1

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88916826021?pwd=RmtYZWJDdzY4UTJYcnp0di95ZEtrZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 1682 6021

Passcode: 173033

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(P), 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 – February 21, 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 L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen.

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

Communication/Correspondence: N/A

New Business:

- Ginny Millard presents to the EC on the documentary “Drift”
 - Highlights an effort to save Barnegat Bay and ensure the Barnegat Water Shed (spans from Brick to Cape May) is preserved.
 - Purpose is to educate people about different environmental issues and inform visitors to the area on how to take better care of the environment.
 - Flooding is taking longer to dissipate and it is causing problems in the Barnegat Bay area.
 - The Montvale Library has agreed to show the documentary which was produced by Monmouth University on May 5th at 7 p.m.
- Bergen County Clean Communities Grant Approval
 - A mini-grant for 2022 was approved.
 - As long as we sponsor a yearly clean-up day we will qualify for the grant funding.

- Clean Up Day – Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Please let Bob or Ellen know of any locations in need of clean up attention.
 - We will add the Octagon House and Field House #2 to our list of clean-up sites.
- Arbor Day on April 22nd and Earth Day on April 30th
 - We purchased 200 trees from the Arbor Day Foundation to be given to participants at the Montvale Clean-up Day.
 - Half are red maples and half are white pines.
 - Very hardy varieties.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Working on obtaining wood to use for the construction of the bat houses.
 - We will provide fully assembled houses to those who requested them.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - The trail is open and residents are using it.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
 - We have collected a total of 404,446 bags and kept them out of landfills.
 - R. Hanrahan ordered the 4th Trex bench. We are going to install them around the bocce courts at Huff Park.
 - R. Hanrahan: There are a few participants from the senior center who will help to install them.
 - Thank you to Trex and Stop and Shop.
 - Thank you to Mairead and Randy as well as Vicki and Ellen.
- Plastic Bag Legislation (Robert Hanrahan) – no news to report
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo) no news to report
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan: We could provide guidance to the community on how to compost.
 - L. De Pellegrini: We have a pollinator perineal garden that girl scouts built and will maintain.
 - L. De Pellegrini: We could sponsor a speaker to come and present to the community from the botanical gardens.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
 - Barbara Davies from the Land Conservancy of New Jersey will attend the monthly meeting in April.
 - We will meet with her prior to the meeting to tour Montvale's parks and recreational resources.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Montvale is fairly established in terms of roadways.
 - Municipalities can create bike lanes through repaving and restriping roads.
 - New Jersey has a complete street design guide. It lays out all requirements to establish bike lanes. Bike lanes can be established when the roads are resurfaced or restriped.
 - A technician from DOT can come in and help to find solutions to the lack of space.
 - DOT can come and analyze our resources.
 - Funding can be applied for through state and/or federal grants.
 - A. Vozzolo recommends establishing bike lanes near trains and school facilities.

- R. Hanrahan: This will be included in the Open Space and Recreation plan. It is a long term plan. E-bikes are increasing in popularity.
- R. Hanrahan: NJ has a new law that says that you must provide 4 feet clearance between a bicycle and vehicle when passing a bicycle. If you cannot provide 4 feet of clearance you must slow down to 25 mph.
- R. Preston: The DOT technician could use CAD layouts, they could provide the guidance electronically.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- No new information to report.

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Use permits are being submitted and approved. Quite a few new businesses are coming to town and filling up office space.
- The former Western Union building located at 100 Summit Avenue will be renovated and will support rehabilitation/residential needs as follows: 60 long term, 60 transitory, and 60 memory care. Once side of the building will be demolished and redeveloped.
- Next Planning Board meeting - May 3rd

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

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, April 18, 2022