

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Date/Time:**

Monday, September 19, 2022 – 7:45pm

**Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall****Topic: Environmental Commission Monthly Meeting**

**Time: Sep 19, 2022 07:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83103762460?pwd=cjl2a003L1Bycll3TkRNRGc0Yko1dz09>

**One tap mobile**

**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), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)

**Approval of Minutes** – August 15, 2022- A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen.

**Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – Agenda Items** - A motion to open the meeting was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen.

**Meeting Closed to Public-** A motion to close the meeting was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by M. Jensen.

**Communication/Correspondence:**

- The girl scouts contacted the Mayor to extend an offer to assist with planting at Huff Pond.
- E. Riccardi and R. Hanrahan will work with the Girl Scout leader to guide the project.
- We are waiting for more feedback from Downes Tree Service as well as an Environmental Consultant (ask Bob for name).
- Downes will put in topsoil, grass, mitigation planting and any additional planting already accounted for in the budget.

**New Business:**

- Summit Avenue Open Space Land Purchase
  - The borough is working toward acquiring a large parcel of land off of Summit Avenue.
  - The property includes a large portion on non-buildable wetlands.
  - This acquisition would help to increase open space in Montvale.

- Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)
  - R. Hanrahan attended the planning board meeting last month to present on an environmentally sensitive plan/proposal and supporting draft article.
  - There was a lot of positive feedback regarding the draft article and the information it contained.
  - Suggestion to use the article to communicate to the residents and the public, including contractors.
  - An ERI is an important addition to the master plan and a useful tool for the building department regarding which parcels of property include environmentally sensitive land.
  - Letter of Interpretation can be obtained from the DEP. This is a legal document that confirms if protected land on your property.
  - The ERI can be provided by Barbara Davis and the NJ Land Conservancy, for a discounted price.
  - The ERI will cost an additional \$ 12,500.00.
  - The Planning Board Chairman agreed to split the cost with the Environmental Commission.
  - The EC will be responsible for \$,6,500.00 of the total cost of \$ 12,500.00.

**A motion to approve funding of the ERI in the amount of \$6,500.00, a portion of the total cost of \$ 12,500.00 was voted on and unanimously approved:**

**Members: Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(yes), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Antonio Vozzolo(yes), Michelle Zink-Jojic(yes), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(yes) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)**

#### **Old Business:**

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini) -Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini)
  - Thank you to all EC members who help at the bat event: A special thank you to L. DePellegrini., L. Skoglund, and M. Zink-Jojic,
  - 32 residents in attendance not including EC members.
  - Joe D'Angeli, bat expert brought bat location tools and was able to find exactly where they were.
  - He also brought live flying foxes for the residents to view and feed.
  - Montvale has several different species of bats. The sonar was able to interpret sound and identify species.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - Residents have complained that the trail is overgrown.
  - The Mayor agreed we should put a maintenance contact in place.
  - R. Hanrahan requested several quote from landscapers.
  - The DPW would like to do the maintenance for the fees quoted.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen)
  - Volume of incoming plastic bags at the recycling center has slowed down possibly due to the state plastic bag ban.
  - Volume of incoming plastic bags at borough hall remains steady.
  - The recycle center fence is fully installed.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)
  - Currently waiting for a borough fleet inventory list.

- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
  - On hold until we receive direction from the Mayor and Council.
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan)
  - Barbara Davis has presented to the planning board and mayor and council, as per requirement.
  - Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
  - A. Vozzolo was finally contacted by the Department of Transportation.
  - Working on arranging a time to speak.
  - Would like the DOT representative to come to Montvale and speak with the EC members.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan)
  - E. Riccardi is working on getting a purchase order to purchase 5 additional signs.
  - DPW will install signs.
- Communication about Tree Ordinance to New Families/ New Resident Welcome Mailer (Robert Hanrahan)
  - E. Riccardi is working with the Mayor's office to coordinate having the EC information included in mailings.
  - Venue to distribute the value of trees article and other information to new residents.
- New Community Center discussion (Robert Hanrahan/C. Roche)
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, Trail Discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
  - R. Hanrahan guided the boy scouts in repairing the trail.
  - The boy scouts will receive credit hours toward environmental community service.
  - Some residents helped scrape up moss and place down vinegar to help mitigate further growth.
- Category One, Riparian Zone and Wetland Protection Ordinance Discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
  1. Riparian zone category 1 ordinance
    - This would be local regulation that would disallow certain activities on a property that are consistent with the DEP/state rules.
  2. Wetland ordinance
 

Could be incorporated into 1 ordinance

Feedback at planning and zoning meeting was not supportive of moving forward with an ordinance.
- Street Fair – October 23rd
  - L. Skoglund and L. DePellegrini volunteered to represent the EC.
  - E. Riccardi will request for a table and 4 chairs next to the Mayor and Council table

**Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche - absent**

**Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli**

- The past meeting agenda was limited to use permits.
- Recently approved the Valley Medical for the building going in by Wegmans.
- Planning Board agendas are always posted on the borough website. Feel free to reach out to R. Zitelli with any questions.

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

**Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, October 17, 2022**