

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, November 14, 2022 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89043625344?pwd=cGNjNFFDdCtLTWJwVTlaWW9nOTJGdz09>

Join by phone/Dial by your location

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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(A), Planning Board Liaison/Member Robert Zitelli(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)

Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2022 - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. De Pellegrini.

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

- Two student in attendance from the High School Civics Program.

Meeting Closed to Public - A motion to close the meeting was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. De Pellegrini.

Communication/Correspondence:

- Communication was received from the borough regarding maintenance of the Trex Recycling Program
 - It was requested that we be more efficient and consistent in taking care of the plastic bags deposited at the location outside of the library entrance.
 - R. Hanrahan reminds the EC members that Wegman's is now participating in the Trex Recycling Program and requests that the EC members deliver one bag of recyclable plastic after the meeting.
 - R. Hanrahan asked L. Hutter of the borough to reach out to other borough employees and request assistance with the maintenance of the program.
 - We have collected over 500 pounds of plastic for this past recycling challenge and will be putting in for another bench.
- Holiday Appreciation Dinner
 - E. Riccardi reminds EC members to RSVP to the Holiday Appreciation Dinner to be held on December 9th at firehouse.

- RSVP directly to N. Gayed and provide her with a head count if you plan to attend. Spouses are welcome.

New Business:

- Summit Avenue Open Space Land Purchase – no update to report
- Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)
 - Collier Engineering provided a draft ERI at a Master Plan sub-committee meeting attended by R. Hanrahan on 11/1/2022
 - The borough made an offer to the NJ Land Conservancy to act as a consultant/peer review of the work but they declined the offer.
 - The EC members felt the draft ERI was significantly lacking subject matter as well as Montvale specific data, and required much more work.
 - EC will request for a meeting with Collier to review EC recommendations

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Update on Bat Education Project (Lisa De Pellegrini) – No news to report
 - Pollinator Garden
 - L. DePellegrini and D. Pawlyk met at the Huff Pond Park/Senior Center and cleaned up the pollinator garden.
 - D. Pawlyk will plant the pollinator seeds now that is colder out.
 - A resident reached out regarding the garden wanting to plant vegetables in the bed.
 - L. DePellegrini and D. Pawlyk will reach out to the seniors for extra help. The pollinator garden can be a place where we can join forces. A primer to a community garden.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - DPW will be maintaining the Memorial Trail and keeping it clear.
- Montvale Plastic Bag Recycling Update (Randy Preston/Mairead Jensen) – Please see above under communication/correspondence.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Lisa Skoglund/Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Further discussion is required regarding inventory. R. Hanrahan and A. Vozzolo will schedule a meeting to discuss the police department vehicle specifications.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan) – no news to report
- Open Spaces and Recreation Plan (Mairead Jensen/Robert Hanrahan) – R. Hanrahan is requesting assistance from L. Loranger, Montvale Director of Recreation.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - It has been a challenge setting up a meeting with the DOT.
 - DOT resources are limited.
 - A master plan will be useful to guide this discussion. Something that speaks to what we want to do in the future.
- Tree City Signage (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan and R. Preston will work on finalizing locations for signage.
- Communication about Tree Ordinance to New Families/ New Resident Welcome Mailer (Robert Hanrahan) – No news to report.
- New Community Center discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Chris Roche) – No news to report.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
 - R. Hanrahan asked the borough for some electric blowers.
 - Suggests to the EC members to clear the trail off with a blower.

- Category One, Riparian Zone and Wetland Protection Ordinance Discussion (Robert Hanrahan)
 - No news to report.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche (not in attendance)

Planning Board Report – Bob Zitelli

- Valley Medical has a facility at the end of Kinderkamack Road heading toward NY. The facilities will be expanded and there will be significant renovation to the shopping center. Renovations will be performed by Valley Medical as well as the landlord of the property.
- A law firm is moving into town on Chestnut Ridge Road.
- Several office buildings in town that are gradually filling up again.

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

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, December 12, 2022