

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, November 18, 2024 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89522223132?pwd=ye0isKalrA8ogrVUXp9xXH4e3vHkRD.1>

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: Lou Baldanza(P), Lisa De Pellegrini(P), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(P), Mairead Jensen(A), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Sherwin Tsai(A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)

Approval of Minutes –October 21, 2024- A motion to approve was made by R. Hanrahan and seconded by R. Preston.

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

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

Communication/Correspondence:

- The Pascack Hills High School Interact Club contacted the EC for a community project/opportunity for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They will have approximately 20 student and staff volunteers available.
 - Suggestion to do a clean-up in January.
- Tree variety chosen for new trees at Huff Pond to replace what was previously removed.
 - Thank you to the EC members for the feedback.
 - The EC recommended the Red Sunset Maple with a caliper of 4 inches or greater.
 - The variety was agreed upon by the borough. Due to time and budget constraints, 4 trees will be installed with a caliper of 3 to 3 ½ inches.
- Article on ERI – R. Hanrahan
 - Wrote an article to introduce the ERI to the Montvale community.
 - Focus of the article is to introduce the ERI as reference document.
 - It will be published in Community Life, Pascack Press, and via Montvale communications.

- We will email it to the principals and Board of Education.

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions (if applicable) –No new submissions to review.
 - JTJ Holdings - 22 Railroad Avenue (Update on previous submission)
 - L. DePellegrini and L. Skoglund reviewed the property in detail.
 - The builders will knock down the little blue house on the property for the new development.
 - The new construction will include the area that is now a parking lot. Parking for the proposal will go behind the building.
 - There are only a few large trees on the property now which will need to come down for the new construction.
 - L. Skoglund states that 2/3 of that proposed project area is already paved.
 - The only green area on the property is surrounding the little house and its backyard.
 - The intention for proposal will a mixed use property (residential and commercial).
 - L. DePellegrini states that the property is located just before the small island where the traffic currently bottlenecks. Water runoff will be a problem.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini) No news to report.
 - Working on projects for late winter.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Colin Hill (Boy Scout) built a kiosk at Huff pond.
 - It has an information board with a bench.
 - Maintenance work on Huff pond
 - We voted on and approved a proposal at the October 21st EC meeting for an estimate submitted by Steve Rich's company to do work on the pond.
 - The job required hand shoveling in addition to the use of machines.
 - Kiera Luff - Eagle Scout Project
 - Kiera has been working on erosion prevention next to the fire house by planting around the inlet and outlet to pond.
 - L. DePellegrini assisted with recommendations on the selection of the plants.
 - The ground in the area is stabilized.
 - Mulch recently laid down has remained due to the lack of heavy rain.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Antonio Vozzolo) No news to report.
 - R. Preston asks if any progress has been made on the installation of the charging station at borough hall. No EC members had any new information to report.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Working on completing the application with a goal of completion by the end of this year.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - We have a list of participants ready to contribute to this project.
 - We can start the planning process.

- There is a greenhouse on the property we can potentially use.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - Rehab work on the trail – The Interact Club of Pascack Hills High School
 - The Interact Club, under the supervision of L. Baldanza and R. Preston did rehab on the trail.
 - There were 10-15 participants from group working.
 - Thank you to the Interact Club, Lou Baldanza and Randy Preston.
 - R. Preston and L. Baldanza state that the students really enjoyed the day, were productive and busy. They worked hard and had fun. It was a great day.
 - Work completed included replacement of floor boards, scraping of moss and general rehabilitation.
 - 152 boards have been replaced so far. There are 50 more to go.
 - Hridank Shukla – Eagle Scout Project
 - The project is moving forward.
 - We will be receiving more detailed information from the scout.
 - R. Preston states he would like to assist.
 - We will offer a subpage on the EC webpage to store educational information regarding the stations along the trail.
 - L. Baldanza states that we may have to replace the garbage receptacles that are currently on the trail.
 - R. Hanrahan states that we may be able to purchase new ones, if our budget permits.
- Update on Tree City Application
 - We require an annual proclamation in honor of Arbor Day approved by the end of this year.
 - R. Hanrahan and E. Riccardi are working on the proclamation and application.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche (Absent)

Planning Board Report – Sherwin Tsai (Absent)

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, December 18, 2024