

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, June 16, 2025 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89129574882?pwd=isJtoY7igW9f4oYb0NX0C8fHSpQQDv.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(P), Randall Preston(P), Lisa Skoglund(P), Antonio Vozzolo(A), Michelle Zink-Jojic(P), Planning Board Liaison/Member Sherwin Tsai(A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2025 - A motion to approve was made by M. Jensen and seconded by R. Preston.

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

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

Communication/Correspondence:

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions (if applicable)
 - 22 Railroad Avenue
 - The EC has no significant feedback to provide regarding environmental concerns.
 - 400 Market Street – Valley Health System – Variance – signs
 - The EC has no significant feedback to provide regarding environmental concerns.
 - Dunkin Donuts
 - The current store next to the car wash will close and the establishment will move across the street to the lot next to the Dairy Queen.
 - Dunkin Donuts will occupy half of the building and there will be a tenant the other half of the building.
 - R. Hanrahan states that there are wetlands on the rear of the property.
 - EC to request plans to be updated with wetlands shown before further EC review takes place.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Jim Wright presentation
 - Approximately 40 residents attended the presentation.
 - It was well received but brief in length.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Aerators are installed in the pond and are functioning.
 - L. DePellegrini states that someone is taking the fish out of the pond. We need a sign instructing a catch and release policy.
 - R. Hanrahan states that we will write an email to J. Voytus requesting signage saying, “Huff Pond, Catch and Release Only”.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Antonio Vozzolo) Absent
 - R. Hanrahan states that the chargers are powered up and working.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo) Absent
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Location to be on the former DePiero farm.
 - In addition to a community garden at the location, there is interest in developing strawberry farming.
 - C. Roche states that the borough is putting out a bid spec for a renter on the property.
 - C. Roche will reach out to the property planning subcommittee and ask them to contact R. Hanrahan for EC inclusion in the committee.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - L. Baldanza, R. Hanrahan and R. Preston are ready to start repair work of the trail.
 - Hridank Shukla (scout) built and installed the trail head and wrote educational documentation explaining the 15 stations along the trail.
 - There will be a trail map on the trail head that depicts the stations.
 - R. Hanrahan is scheduled to present a proposal at the next Mayor and Council meeting to develop an interconnect trail between the ELC and Wegmans.
 - The interconnect trail will go around the back of the cell tower.
 - We will install some visual screening to block the cell tower from view.
 - Current plan is to use stones for the edging and mulch the trail.
 - Project cost estimated to be \$ 10,000 to \$ 15,000.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- The affordable housing unit requirement is currently at 205 units; reduced 40% from original number.

Planning Board Report – Sherwin Tsai - Absent

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, July 21, 2025