

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, October 21, 2024 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85230957081?pwd=QPKLQByWuDjF5qgQGauUcbd7S52985b.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(A), Planning Board Liaison/Member Sherwin Tsai(A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)

Approval of Minutes –September 16, 2024 - A motion to approve was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. DePellegrini.

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. DePellegrini and seconded by L. Skoglund.

Communication/Correspondence:

- Montale Employee and Volunteers Appreciation Dinner
 - Scheduled for November 22nd – please RSVP to Nevene at the borough hall.
- Eagle Scout Projects
 - Both Eagle Scouts (Kiera and Hridank) received Mayor and Council approval on their proposed projects.
 - Colin Hill (boys scout) will be building a Kiosk at Huff pond. It will have a bicycle rack, benches and area for posting information. He is starting work this week. R. Hanrahan invites the EC members to join in and help. The scouts need public participation. They get credit for engaging volunteers from outside the organization.
- 2025 and 2026 Pond Management Program
 - The EC received a cold call solicitation on pond management. The company proposed a chemical plan to control algae for Huff pond.
 - We currently have the extra aerator which seems to have helped.
 - L. Skoglund states that the fish have helped as well.

- R. Hanrahan states that we don't currently have a need to introduce chemicals into the pond.

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions (if applicable)
 - Montvale Grove – Final Site Review Plans
 - 250 trees shown on the submitted plans. 108 are slated for removal. 99 trees are indicated for replacement.
 - We will request the applicants to respond to us with species and location. The tree schedule provided does not show consistent caliper.
 - R. Hanrahan spoke with the borough engineer and was advised that Montvale Grove's engineers are obligated to meet state rules and regulation. It is not an obligation for the planning board to enforce. It is an obligation the applicant needs to address with the state.
 - There are two category one waterways currently not shown on drawings, one on the east side, across Spring Valley Rd. Also the riparian buffer is not depicted on the submitted plans.
 - R. Hanrahan states that we have documentation that shows the approximate riparian buffer zones on our ERI which will be referenced when we make our recommendation.
 - The applicants still need to get a permit which will be reviewed for approval by the DEP. All approval will be contingent upon satisfying state requirements
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 - JTJ Holdings - 22 Railroad Avenue
 - The applicants want to build a 24 unit residential building. Each unit will be 2-3 bedrooms. Some will be for low income applicants.
 - It is proposed to be a 3 story building (currently 2 story building) with some retail shops.
 - There is very little screening on the property and not many trees currently present.
 - There is a waiver requested on all of tree requirements.
 - The applicants are not providing an environmental impact statement. Trees shown on plans may be inaccurate.
 - Two EC members will review property and report back to the EC of their findings.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini) – No news to report.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - Kiera has already started work on her project by putting some plantings in and moving some boulders where there is erosion to mitigate further damage.
 - A lot of silt has been flowing into the pond during large storms. Steve Rich will repair the damage and return the pond to its original state as described by Boswell

Engineering drawings. All silt within the water will be removed by hand and loaded into a backloader for return to its original locations.

- The cost to do all work is \$ 8,300.00.

Roll Call Vote: A roll call vote was made and approved the proposal dated October 21, 2024 submitted by Steve Rich regarding the above referenced work to be done to Huff pond: Lou Baldanza (yes), Lisa De Pellegrini(yes), Chairman Robert Hanrahan(yes), Mairead Jensen(A), Randall Preston(yes), Lisa Skoglund(yes), Antonio Vozzolo (yes) Michelle Zink-Jojic(A), Planning Board Liaison/Member Sherwin Tsai(A) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(A)

- Revisions to Tree Ordinance – Discussion – No news to report.
 - R. Hanrahan requests EC members to assist.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Antonio Vozzolo) – No news to report.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Currently working on proposal to submit to the state.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - We will have full use of the DePiero property in August.
 - R. Hanrahan suggests that we could use the greenhouse for the community garden.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - Hridank is working with L. Baldanza and is moving forward with his project.
 - Repair of trail by Scouts: November 9th and 10th.
 - R. Preston will connect with Dave Hill (scout leader) to confirm details.
 - L. Baldanza will inventory what needs to be done. Work to be done includes repair of broken boards and removal of moss.
- Review of ANJEC guidance on Site Plan Reviews
 - R. Hanrahan asks EC members to review the document for future use as a resource.
- Gas Power/Electric Power Blower NJ legislation – No news to report.
- Update on Tree City Application – No news to report.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – Not in attendance.

Planning Board Report – Sherwin Tsai – Not in attendance.

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, November 18, 2024