

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, April 28, 2025 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Montvale Recreation is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87083829125?pwd=jEq8jTLZOoKDrdfsb0T8QTjDRYCIET.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(A), Lisa Skoglund(A), Antonio Vozzolo(P), Michelle Zink-Jojic(A), Planning Board Liaison/Member Sherwin Tsai(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2025 - A motion to approve was made by L. Baldanza and seconded by M. Jensen. .

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

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

Communication/Correspondence:

- Amteck employees volunteered their time and did a clean-up on the Environmental Learning Trail and the trail that circles Wegmans. Thank you to all the employees of Amteck who helped with this successful event. They did a great job! We will include them in the friends of the EC distribution list.

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions (if applicable)
 - No submissions to review.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - Recap – Swap for Invasive Species presentation

- Thank you L. DePellegrini for organizing another noteworthy presentation from Lourdes Osorio.
 - Lourdes spoke discussed what not to buy from the garden center and the danger of invasive plants in our gardens.
 - L. DePellegrini will contact Lourdes to see if she has any information we can post on the EC webpage.
- Jim Wright will present on June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. on backyard birds and what species of plants will best support our wildlife.
- E. Riccardi will work on a flyer.
- Montvale Clean Up Day – Saturday, April 19th – Recap
 - Approximately 75 people participated including scouts, the high school Interact Club and various members of our community.
 - The DPW helped with clean up and breakdown of the event. We collected over 150 lbs. of trash.
 - Over 30 softballs were collected and will be donated to the recreation department.
 - Participants received handouts including t-shirts, bags and trees.
 - Thank you to C. Roche for joining us.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - A work order was submitted to install aerators in the pond.
 - We will submit another work order for topsoil and seed for the area in between the bocce courts and Huff pond.
 - The Recreation Department is seeking approval for a gazebo.
 - A pipe that lies below the water in the pond lifted and is sitting above the water.
 - When the pond water level decreases we will secure it with sandbags.
 - The trail is in great shape. Thank you to L. Baldanza who regularly helps by removing tree limbs and other debris that fall.
 - Kiera Luff (scout) finished her project by installing a beautiful bat house on 15 foot pole. It sits 12 feet above the ground.
 - She also put in some plantings and did some erosion control.
 - Thank you Kiera for the great project and contribution to Montvale.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Charger installation at borough hall is moving forward.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo)
 - Will be ready to forward a draft in the coming weeks.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan) – no news to report.
 - We have many residents ready to help.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - Trail Maintenance
 - We have material (wood) ready to improve the trail flooring and keep it maintained for the next few years. R. Preston, L. Baldanza and R. Hanrahan will install it in the coming weeks.

- It does get slippery with the moss. L. Baldanza states that in the past he has used vinegar to kill the moss and an ice scraper to remove it. Suggests that we get some volunteers to assist with the maintenance.
- Hridank Shukla (scout project)
 - He forwarded a drawing showing where each of the placards will be placed on the trail. R. Hanrahan will forward the drawing to the EC members and request that L. Baldanza review the document.
 - Hridank will put code the placards to corresponding informational descriptions that will “live” on the EC webpage.
- A local Boy Scout is looking for an Eagle Scout project and is considering helping with the extension trail connecting the Wegmans stairs to the Environmental Learning Trail.
 - Proposed pathway will go around the cell tower.
 - Suggestion to visually screen at the rear of the tower with Arborvitae every 4 to 6 feet.
 - Extension will require 4 to 6 cubic yards of gravel, metal sidings and geotextile fabric.
 - Approval from the borough must be obtained as well as estimates for materials.
 - R. Hanrahan mentioned it to Steve Rich and he is willing to look at it.
 - We can consider an introductory section to the trail and then mulch for the remainder of the trail for cost savings.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche

- Gazebo to be approved at next budget meeting.

Planning Board Report – Sherwin Tsai

- Viola is working on two water towers. One 100 feet high the other 250 feet high.
- 22 Railroad Road submission is still being revised.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by M. Jensen and seconded by S. Tsai all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, May 19, 2025