

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, September 16, 2024 – 7:45pm

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201562077?pwd=Qzw8Gt0AKaHmZgchu1XwBwnG1ojdXp.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(A), 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(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2024 - A motion to approve was made by M. Jensen and seconded by S. Tsai.

Meeting Opened to Public Agenda & Non – A motion to open was made by M. Jensen and seconded by S. Tsai.

Meeting Closed to Public - A motion to close was made by M. Jensen and seconded by S. Tsai.

Communication/Correspondence:

- Eagle Scout Projects (2)
 - We are currently working with two Eagle Scout projects. Both scouts presented to the Mayor and Council. L. Skoglund attended the meeting as representation for the EC and supported the scouts in their presentations. All members of the Mayor and Council voted yes in support of the proposed projects. A motion was put forward that each scout receive \$200.00 toward the associated costs of their projects.
- Clean Communities Program - mini-grant
 - R. Hanrahan submitted the pictures and paperwork to the County of Bergen.

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions (if applicable)
 - Revisions to 21 Phillips Parkway submission
 - There were some changes to the previous proposal. Sixty-two trees will be removed and ninety-two trees will be replanted.

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- Recap of Day In The Park
 - L. Skoglund attended and manned the table.
 - Community members were interested in the tree, waterway and radon informational flyers.
 - Many residents thanked us for the trail at Huff Pond.
 - S. Tsai stated that there was a lot of tables with fun games to draw people to the booth. The EC can consider that for next year.
- Gas Power/Electric Power blower NJ legislation
 - Some municipalities already have ordinances in place against gas powered blowers and mowers.
 - R. Hanrahan asks the committee members for a volunteer to lead up this long term initiative.
 - Suggestion to reach out to the landscaping companies to get their thoughts.
 - M. Jensen suggests starting with the DPW.

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini)
 - We are looking to do community presentations on pollinator gardens, bats and screech owls.
 - R. Preston suggests we coordinate a bat presentation with Kiera (eagle scout) and her bat house project.
 - Current recommendation to leave old growth and do no deadhead the flowers on currently established gardens and landscape.
 - Plant Sharing Club - People can come and get free plants and bring plants to donate.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan) – No news to report.
 - Eagle Scout Project – Kiera Luff
- Revisions to Tree Ordinance – Discussion
 - Many municipalities are pushing back on the state template.
 - We are standing by for more information.
- Electric Vehicle Update (Antonio Vozzolo) – No news to report.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo) - No news to report.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - The borough now owns the DePiero farm property.
 - There is a plan for a strawberry garden as well as other projects that are loosely parsed out.
 - There are several greenhouses on the property that have not yet been repurposed.
 - Suggestion to use a greenhouse for the community garden.
 - We do have community members ready to work on the project.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - Eagle Scout Project – Hridank Shukla
 - L. Baldanza requested that a workday be scheduled for replacement of deficient boards. This work should be done prior to the coming winter weather.

- R. Preston will speak to D. Hill and L. Baldanza.to coordinate the work with the boy scouts as a community service project.
- R. Hanrahan has the lumber. We will need to borrow some tools.
- Review of ANJEC guidance on Site Plan Review
 - R. Hanrahan did speak to the Mayor about including the EC in the process.
 - R. Preston suggests requesting that we request the plan and surveys electronically.

Council Liaison Report -Chris Roche

- C. Roche recommended to Hindrick (Eagle Scout) to include the Pascack trail in his project. We may want to continue this and include other trails as they are added.

Planning Board Report – Sherwin Tsai – No news to report.

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

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, October 21, 2024