

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time:

Monday, July 20, 2026 – 7:45 p.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom and Borough Hall

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81060509283?pwd=216Pv43icEx2sJhcxLbC5yEjua5dWw.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 Joseph Puglisi(P) & Council Liaison Christopher Roche(P)

Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2026 - A motion to approve was made by J. Puglisi and seconded by L. Baldanza.

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

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

New Business:

- Review of Planning Board Submissions
 - 40 Herring Road
 - The property is located on the western side of road along the Rockland County border.
 - Currently there is a 2 story residence on the lot. The homeowners are proposing an addition which will significantly increase the size of the house.
 - No environmental information is depicted or substantiated in the submitted drawing.
 - The Environmental Commission requested that the applicant indicate whether any trees are proposed for removal and, if so, designate the trees on a drawing or site plan. A hand-drawn plan is acceptable. The applicant should reference Montvale Code Chapter 369-1 through 369-5 (Tree Preservation Ordinance)
 - 1 Maureen Court
 - The submitted application is proposing a pool house.
 - No environmental information is depicted or substantiated in the submitted drawing.
 - The Environmental Commission requested that the applicant indicate whether any trees are proposed for removal and, if so, designate the trees on a drawing or site plan. A hand-drawn plan is acceptable. The applicant should reference Montvale Code Chapter 369-1 through 369-5 (Tree Preservation Ordinance)

Old Business:

- Community Project Update (Lisa De Pellegrini) No news to report.
- Pascack Trail/Huff Pond Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - L. Baldanza and R. Preston report that both the trail and pond look good.
- Bicycle and Walking Plan (Antonio Vozzolo) No news to report.
- Community Garden Update (Robert Hanrahan)
 - There are garden beds that are full and overwhelmingly rich with vegetables, flowers and happy people.
 - There was a Montvale Garden participant meeting.
 - Feedback was positive.
 - 2 addition benches were installed and now there are 4 benches in total.
 - A sun sale was purchased to provide a shaded area.
 - We received the recycling and trash pails.
 - R. Hanrahan states that we are focused on getting the next ten beds set up. Next year we will have a minimum of 50 beds. 20% of people who said they wanted one changed their mind but the participants who committed are serious about taking care of them.
 - Price not set for next year yet. We need to check for interest for next year.
 - Next year we can consider putting down gravel.
 - C. Roche states that the gravel laid last year already has ruts. We may want to wait until plans with the pavilion solidify.
 - R. Preston asks, “What is the consensus on composting?”
 - R. Hanrahan replies that some people are for it and he asked those people to propose a plan on how to regulate it.
 - L. De Pellegrini suggests rotating composting bins
 - We should consider signage with the Montvale logo with the MCG sitting on the road and the trail connector to the garden.
- Repair of Environmental Learning Center, trail discussion (Robert Hanrahan/Michelle Zink-Jojic/Lou Baldanza)
 - Thank you to L. Baldanza, Gemma Pelzer and friends for all the work they did on the trail.
 - The boards are there and ready to be installed.
 - We still need a trail sign at the kiosk with a map.
 - We received the recycling and trash pails.

Council Liaison Report – Chris Roche – No news to report.

Planning Board Report – Joe Puglisi

- J. Puglisi spoke to Darlene Greene about the property across from Memorial Drive on Grand Avenue. She suggested we seek permission from the owner to build a trail on it.
- L. Baldanza states that there is a guiderail along the road. The Borough of Montvale or Bergen County may have an easement in that area. We could request permission to proceed within the easement.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by L. Skoglund and seconded by L. De Pellegrini all in favor stating aye.

Next EC Meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2026