

The 2025 Montebello Historic Preservation and Parks Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at Montebello Village Hall, One Montebello Road, Montebello, NY. Chairman Moetzinger called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.** and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	Matt Moetzinger	Chairman
	Lisa Levin	Member
	Rosemary Mocio	Member
	Bill Ellsworth	Member
	Dorice Madronero	Member
	Sheila Nealon	Ad Hoc
	Warren Berbit	Village Attorney
Absent:	Craig Long	Village Historian
Recording Secretary:	Regina Rivera	Planning/Zoning Clerk

### **Minutes Approval**

Member Madronero noted typo in the minutes, “bullet” should be “bulletin board” and KGP should be KGPP. The recording clerk ensured the typos will be corrected. Member Mocio made a motion to approved the minutes of the May 7, 2025 meeting, seconded by Member Ellsworth and upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There were no applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness at this time, but the recording clerk explained that 158 Spook Rock Road and Stonehedge Farms Subdivision will both return to the HPPC for approvals because of proposed and existing changes to the respective properties.

### **Montebello Clean-Up Day**

Chairman Moetzinger thanked everyone for their participation in this event and noted that the representatives for Keep Rockland Beautiful (KRB) we extremely helpful. Over nineteen bags of garbage and over four recycling bags were collected by many families and students. Chairman Moetzinger added that KRB encourages municipalities to participate semi-annually, and noted that there will be another this fall. If we do this twice per year, we can see great improvements, he added. Member Madronero suggested that they write a note of thanks to the kid who tied a rope around his waist and waded into the water to clean up the ponds at Kathy Gorman Ponds Park.

The Commission agreed that to participate in the next cleanup in September or October, preferably on a Sunday so that most of the Village will be able to join. Member Nealon suggested deciding on a date sooner rather than later so the Commission and the Village have time to advertise thereby casting a wider net.

### **Kathy Gorman Ponds Park**

The Commission engaged in a lengthy discussion about the non-working bubblers in the park. Member Mocio, in an email exchange with Village Clerk Joan Will, learned that the power box for the bubblers were vandalized and will take some time to replace. The village is also opposed to using chemicals to treat the algae in the ponds. The Commission discussed alternative methods to fix the problem, but nothing conclusive resulted.

The commission lamented the trash that accumulates in the park and considered adding more trash bins, and signage that read “be part of the solution, not the pollution,” but again, in her correspondence with Ms. Will, Member Mocio learned that the Village is looking into bins that can be anchored so as not to be tossed into the ponds, and that they do not want to add signage everywhere because they clutter up the park without being effective.

Other KGPP items:

- The town of Ramapo will clean the ponds, but there is no timetable
- Village Engineer is looking into the erosion of the walking trails, but the rain is hampering efforts.
- Japanese knot weed and downed trees will eventually be removed by the village landscapers.
- The dams were recently inspected by the DEC who reported no issues.
- Litter patrol in the park has been increased

Ultimately, Member Mocio was concerned that she needs more directives, help and information from Village Hall to fulfil her duties as the KGPP liaison, and added she felt as if she were not receiving any answers to her questions. Mr. Berbit explained that their concerns are being heard and that problems will get solved, and advised Member Mocio to stay on target. He added there is no easy solution for the bubblers and that the real solution may be to bring in electric bubblers even though the village is eco-forward with solar panels. Chairman Moetzinger noted that solar, eco-friendly or not, is now a problem because much of the canopy of the park is mature and blocks the sun from reaching the panels.

After more discussion, the Commission decided to explore obtaining a CLG grant for a water study and Mr. Berbit agreed it was a good idea.

### **2025 Jazz Festival**

Mayor Millman will attend the July 2, 2025 HPPC to discuss the planning progress of the Jazz Fest which will take place on the first Sunday of September.

To date:

- The lobster truck was booked.

- The Ice Factory will come to the fest to two hours only
- Still looking for a kosher barbeque truck
- Book Port-a-potties
- Request sawhorses from Ramapo PD.
- Confirmed sponsors—Westrock Pools, Raymour & Flanigan, Manhattan Beer.

The Commission hopes to have all pending items completed in time for the Mayor's visit.

### **Parks Program**

The Commission considered doing an Art in the Park some time in the fall. Summer programs are still being considered.

### **Time Capsule**

Commission wishes to sync the burial of the new time capsule with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village and the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and agreed to leave the old capsule buried until a meaningful time has passed.

Member Ellsworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. seconded by Member Madronero and upon vote, all were in favor.