

ANDOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

**DOLORES BLACKBURN, MAYOR
JACK BURKE, DEPUTY MAYOR
ELLSWORTH E. BENSLEY, JR
JANIS MC GOVERN
THOMAS WALSH**

COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2016

6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the Andover Township Committee was called to order at 6:30 by Mayor Blackburn, followed by a salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Present: Ellsworth E. Bensley, Jr., Jack Burke, Janis Mc Govern, Thomas Walsh & Mayor Blackburn
Also present were: Deputy Clerk, Toni-Lu Martin

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: Statement of compliance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 was made by Mayor Blackburn.

AGENDA:

CLEAN COMMUNITIES:

Toni-Lu Martin – Reported that the Clean Community Program will be offering organizations multiple clean up opportunities throughout the year at their convenience. Darren bought a job box which is located at the DPW with a combination lock. Darren prepares a bucket with flags, vests, etc., they pick up, do their clean up, list on the packet of information the roads they did, bring back information and place it back in the job box. This gives organizations an opportunity to earn up to \$500.00 each grant.

- 1. Education through Schools on the Benefits of the Grant** – Trying to reach out to the schools to do programs.
- 2. Clean-ups with Non-profit organizations-** Two groups went out this weekend and worked on Stickle Pond Road; and Dan Nolan with the football league. We will also be doing a Waterway Challenge with Lake Lenape.
- 3. Community Service Awards-** Through the grant we can pay for the graffiti on the concrete to be cleaned.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Rick Melfi, President – Mentioned this committee is an advisory committee with regard to commercial & economic business.

1. **Incorporate recycling bins for the large business in our town in our waste contract** - Mr. Melfi mentioned we can help our tonnage by bringing some of that recycling into the town's recycling numbers. A way to do this is to bring some of these businesses in under our contract to have recycling picked up by our contractor.
2. **Impute for active recruitment of business to build on property across from Sparta quarry** – Need to look into who we would want to put into this property. The other piece of property is the old jump airport, and we should also look to find someone for this property.
3. **Activate redevelopment to the Rt. 206 corridor. Enforce the town's property maintenance ordinance on commercial business that has been neglected.** Mr. Melfi spoke of maybe having this area re-zoned to help the businesses that may want to come in. Over the last five years we've put together a good property maintenance ordinance into the town for both residential and commercial. Need to be proactive in enforcing this ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

David Kolstad – Chair – Created by Ordinance to advise environmental issues with regard to development in the town and other quality of life issues.

1. **Old Creamery Property, Clean up and Ownership** – This property abuts the Kittattinny State Park and it seems to be to the township's advantage if we are able to properly have it cleaned up.
2. **Revisiting township Ordinances that have Environmental Ramifications and unnecessary constraints** – Over the next few years this may be something we can look into to help development for the town.
3. **Getting rid of invasive species in our Open Space** – Clean up and get rid of this so that Open Space can become a much healthier environment.
4. **Develop Coordination with the Employees of the Town** - Having the employees of the town involved in the actual processes would be helpful in getting things done.

OPEN SPACE:

Carla Kastelnick – Chairman – There are two taxes in the Township for Open Space. One is the county tax which everyone pays, and the other is a tax that the township residents voted on. The residents pay between .01 can get up to .02 of their municipal taxes. Based on that, these are the recommendations. We need to develop an efficient process for proposals of the use of the township's open space for properties. The Open Space Committee has proposed bocce ball court and horseshoe pits in the park above the area of the practice fields. This Committee is looking to work with the DPW to develop a bike path that goes from the Hillside Park house to Goodale Road which is opens space property.

1. **Create guidelines for submission of use of Township properties which do not fall under development rules**
2. **New uses on Open-space land**

3. Use of any township Facilities by Andover based groups

- 4. Fee Schedule** - At the Township Committee meeting there was Girl Scout Troop they wanted to use the Barn and they were being charged a fee that people would be charged for weddings. There needs to be a fee schedule.

LAND USE BOARD:

Suzanne Howell – Chair –

- 1. Zoning Map Update to show Lot and Block** – There is not a map which shows lot and block on a map within the zones. Applicants have a difficult time finding this.
- 2. Review of Technical Check Lists** - We are looking into the purchase of software to set up our own digital mapping. The County has a link you can go to and put in an address, what zone it's in and who owns it currently, how many acres, etc. Can we possibly put a link from our website to the county's website? Also, maybe a survey of all township departments of their wants and needs they would wish for in digital mapping.
- 3. Ordinance Review- User friendly solutions** – Would like to work with the Township Committee to review current ordinances for possible modification in a user friendly process. Also like to supply a modified checklist to correlate with modified ordinances to make sure ordinances and checklists match. Some of the checklists are redundant and need to be overhauled.
- 4. Route 206 Corridor** – Have formed a sub-committee and they will be looking into revitalization and rehabilitation of this corridor.

RECREATION:

Gigi Regolizio– Chair –

- 1. Designated Space** – Gigi spoke that the committee would like to establish a recreation center. Would like to see a space opened up at least once a week where there activities going on for children of specific age groups for drop off. Mentioned she has spoken to the High School Guidance Counsellor and that the students need different volunteer hours for the different clubs that they are in and would have volunteers.
- 2. Portable/Mobile outdoor entertainment center** – We would like to have either a portable stage to have bands, and or movie screens so we can own it and not rent it for movie nights.
- 3. Outdoor water play feature/ Barn Hall renovations (Wi-Fi)** – Township people have been asking for an outdoor water feature for the children. We would also like WiFi in the Barn area.

SUSTAINABLE ANDOVER:

Eric Olsen – Chair

- 1. Meadow scaping Initiative** – Desire to reduce the amount of mowing and to turn the lawns into wildflower meadows. Reduction of costs and beautification.

2. **Local First Initiative, Green Business recognition Program** – Partnering with the Economic Development Committee to promote the small locally owned businesses in the community to buy locally to reduce our carbon footprint. Survey local businesses to see who has green businesses
3. **Impervious cover Assessment, nature based storm water Management plan** – Using nature to reduce the impact of storm water runoff into the streams, lakes and rivers. Work with Rutgers Water Resource Program to look where the impacts are coming from and to identify natural solutions to this storm water runoff.

ZONING:

Fred Suljic – Zoning Officer

1. **Redevelop former Springdale Market site & Area** – Try to get this area re-zoned, there is no central water or sewer, so any development would be based on septic systems. Great potential for office buildings, residential, retail services, medical offices. Another option is to do a redevelopment study, and the Township Committee can act as a redevelopment entity.
2. **Re-zone Western Portion of Abbey site to business/prof.** – Requests are coming in for commercial retail. It can be a tremendous asset.
3. **Re-zone properties in Industrial zone along Brighton Rd to commercial/residential** – There have been a lot of inquiries in this area it's industrially zoned, and it needs to be changed to residential/commercial. Approximately 70 homes have been abandoned or foreclosed on.

NEWTON BRAVES FOOTBALL:

Shelly Zambardi-

1. **Potential Field and Facilities Space Turf Field Grants** – One of the biggest things is field space. How can we get into the fields, can we pay a fee, clean up? Need to find out how to get lighted fields. We have people who work through football who can work with grants. We could win a field, turf, etc. Could use a working concession stand.
2. **Town and program communication, program support**
3. **How can our programs better serve the town(s) residents** – Clean ups, car wash, etc. for volunteer credit.
4. **65% Andover and Green Residents are in the program.**

GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY NEWTON SERVICE UNIT:

Gigi Regolizio-

1. **Volunteer/service opportunities** – Looking for adult volunteers as leaders.
2. **Meeting Spaces outside of schools** – Feeling the pressure of not being able to be in the school.

3. Partnership with other organizations – One Girl Scout is doing a free dance camp for the second year. Another of the Girl Scouts would like to do her Gold Award Project by bringing back Rec Summer Day Camp, she has a proposal for the recreation committee and the Girl Scouts.

GREATER ANDOVER SENIORS:

Janis Mc Govern - This group meets in Andover Borough once a month.

1. The membership is dwindling for a number of reasons. They are trying to be more active and get more people to join. Need to entice more people to join. Normally they meet twice a month 1st and 3rd Mondays.
2. We would like to meet two other days a month at Hillside House from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of an adult get together for different games, cards, can be played.
3. Lois is president and will ask if people have other ideas of what they would like to see in Andover Seniors.
4. Would like to see the YMCA come with different activities, i.e. Golden Zumba for elders, chair yoga, etc. We would try to see if anyone is interested in going to those classes. The fee is about \$20.00 for about 8 sessions.

ANDOVER TOWNSHIP DAY:

Jim Holmes – Gigi Regolizio – Co-Chairs

1. Trying to establish an annual date.
2. Trying to make it community event, not just for children, exposure for businesses.
3. Andover Rec Soccer – will be putting up a soccer shooting contest.
4. If anyone has ideas please contact the Committee.

DOG PARK:

Christine Kretzmer –

1. Dog Park – Looking for Property
2. Support through local veterinarians including – Newton Animal Hospital, etc.

PUBLIC PORTION:

A motion was made by Mayor Blackburn to open to public comment.

Eric Olsen – Thanks for having this dialogue and would like to know where the ideas would be going?

Mayor Blackburn spoke of utilizing the Hillside house for meetings for non-profit organizations and seniors.

Anne-Marie Wilhelm, Land Use Administrator – Happy to have an integral center that is listening and communicating.

Gigi Regolizio- Hillside House – Question re: upper floor usage, and under Barn usage.

Field & Barn Schedule – See Toni-Lu.

Diane Gillespie– Applauded open meeting. Suggested posting minutes of this meeting on our website. Diane also mentioned updating our current website.

Committee - Suggestion to meet and re-visit in 6 months.

Victoria Zone – Potential resident, interested in how the town is planning for the new train station?

Mayor Blackburn – Mentioned they met with the Township Planner regarding possible re-zoning on the area around the proposed train station, and have not moved any further, because the anticipated ate of completion keeps getting moved out. The Land Use Board and the Committee have decided that they will be proactive regarding the train station. Looking to see what can be done with the property surrounding the proposed train station.

Sue Howell – Googled Andover – Train Station showed up!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Walsh to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Burke. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Submitted by,

Diana Francisco, RMC/CMR