

A meeting of the Township of Hamilton Planning Board was held on the above date with Chairman David Wigglesworth presiding.

Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law was acknowledged.

Members Present: Harry Bilicki, Charles Cain, Wayne Choyce, Frank Giordano, John Kurtz, Harry Rogers and Allan Womelsdorf. Members Absent: Richard Cheek, John J. Percy III and David Adams

The following Board Professional was also in attendance: John Rosenberger, Solicitor.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Cain moved, seconded by Mr. Giordano, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2015, as published. SAID MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING”, NO “NAY”, NO “ABSTAIN”

Street Vacation Request: Thirty First Street between Block 432 and 437

Present were Ms. Roseann Mendoza, 7017 Sheppard Avenue, Block 432 Lot 1, property owner and Ms. Carrie Hall, 1212 Arlington Avenue, owner of Block 437 Lot1. This property is in Mizpah, a RD-4 Zone. Ms. Mendoza has requested this vacation and Ms. Hall has no objection to this vacation. Mr. Rogers asked clarification of the area. Mr. Choyce, being a Zoning Board member, gave a rundown of what he recalls occurred at Zoning and why they are requesting to vacate. Request is being made because of a recent survey done for application made to Zoning for possible installation of a solar array it was discovered that accessory structures are in the right of way and other than removing the structures, (home dates back 100 years) vacation of the street would be appropriate and should present no negative impact to surrounding properties as the owners own the entire block/lots involved in this request and it will not cause any land lock lots.

After further discussion and questions and answers, it was determined that there does not appear to be any adverse effects of vacating this section of Thirty-First Street, between Block 432, Lot 1 and Block 437, Lot 2 from Sheppard Avenue (paved street) to Cole Avenue (paper street.)

Motion was made by Mr. Giordano, seconded by Mr. Cain to recommend vacation of Thirty-First Street as presented and for the Board Secretary to forward to the Township Committee for review and possible acceptance.

SAID MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING “AYE”, NO “NAY”, AND NO “ABSTAIN”.

Update/Discussion regarding Atlantic County All Hazard Mitigation Plan

Chairman Wigglesworth recognized Mr. Sartorio for presentation/update regarding the Atlantic County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Sartorio also advised that he will give an update on the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Mr. Sartorio presented a power-point presentation, hard copies of which were distributed to members of the Board and were available for those in attendance.

The purpose of the Atlantic County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to break the cycle of event happening storms, and to reduce the impact of long term risk to life and property from events that cannot be prevented from happening. Funding for the consultants is through FEMA and it is required that we update our Hazard Plan every 5 years. This plan is not just from consultants as they are reaching out to Planning Boards and other parts of government. There are 21 communities involved, along with the County. There is a series of tasks to accomplish to get to the implementation process. Some things are common, and some areas will be shared. From the 2010 studies, the County has identified 15 potential hazards, 13 of these events are recognized for Hamilton. These events range from long term events, i.e. drought; to a few days warning such as hurricane, tropical storm and to events with minutes of advance warning, like tornados and derechos.

Presentation, discussion, questions and answers were entertained. Some points that were brought out is that our Planning Board already has some actions in place that helps to address the situation(s). We are compliant as a Pinelands community and because of their requirements we have designated wetlands, wetland buffer areas, which are primarily your biggest flood prone areas; fire is addressed in that the high wildfire and rural areas are not as populated, as well as clustering provisions being adopted. We have elements in place in the Master Plan that contribute to these factors as well as infrastructure and zoning that is in place. Discussion and plans are being put together to adapt or relocate existing facilities that are of essential nature (i.e. utilities) in case we get another event comparable to a storm surge like Sandy.

Mr. Cain asked if the initial plan is funded by FEMA then what does the costs looks like to the Township. Mr. Sartorio responded that some would be on an annual operational cost, (ie maintenance of our stormwater basins) daily basis or through our capital budget. Some are cost sharing. At present we are upgrading the generator system for Town Hall so that in the event of a disaster/power failure the entire building will be operational. The cost is shared between FEMA and our capital budget.

There is no requirement in Municipal Land Use Law that we do this now but there is legislation being discussed to make it mandatory. These are recommended actions and some will be instituted as we go through time.

Mr. Sartorio and Mr. Brandenberger of Dispatch are working on links to provide residents with updates as things progress.

Preliminary Flood Insurance Map update – The update process started in 2011 with the effects of super storm Sandy and the finish is near.

Mr. Cain raised the question about notification to the public and if the area changed, were those individual's notified. Mr. Sartorio and Mr. Kurtz pointed out that it was announced at the Township Committee meetings, posted on the Township web-site. FEMA has done press/advertising releases as well. There is a 90 day appeal period of the preliminary flood maps which began on April 1, 2015, where people can submit their comments on line at the web site. Appeals are technical, something that is possibly recorded wrong; comments are street names, etc.

The maps have been out since last year, and there haven't been any changes for the Township from then. The latest revisions will be ready shortly. Most parts are positive for the township as there are a few areas where there are some changes, they appear to be more accurate and with quick overview, it appears to be tighter with not much expansion. Mr. Sartorio briefly went over a few areas pointing out a comparison of the LenapeAvenue/Park Road area, to those present. Copies of the maps are in the Planning/Zoning office or on line at www.region2coastal.com

As the deadline for comment is coming to a close, the next step will be making changes/corrections. Once the final maps are released they become effective 6 months after that. Hopefully we will see these final maps in 2016.

Mr. Cain inquired about the old mill property. Mr. Sartorio responded that they knew from the start, that they could not use the then present elevations. On the new map it has an elevation of 8', the old maps reflect 9'.

Chairman Wigglesworth thanked Mr. Sartorio for bringing the Board up to date and for his time and efforts put into the programs

Adjournment 7:45 PM – Mr. Cain moved, seconded by Mr. Choyce, to adjourn the meeting. SAID MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING "AYE", NO "NAY", AND NO "ABSTAIN".

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Lisitski
Planning Board Secretary

accepted August 6, 2015