



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

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Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting Shrewsbury Environmental Commission

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Municipal Building, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Chairwomen Jill Gwydir began the meeting at 7:41pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Presiding Officer's Statement in compliance with P.L. 1975 c.231, the Public Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Bonnie Brookes. Present were Chairwoman Jill Gwydir and members Susan Binns, Robin Blair, Alternative Member Dr. Patrick DiBello and Mayor Burden.

Planning Board

Chairwoman Jill Gwydir stated that she gave the Planning Board a memo with sample solar and wind energy system ordinances from the municipalities of Tinton Falls and Galloway Township. She stated that it was going to be given to the board members to review at their last meeting but it was canceled and informed the Commission that she was unaware if the Planning Board Attorney has looked at the memo. Mayor Don Burden stated that the attorney did look at the memo and drafted an ordinance which will be discussed at their next meeting on Wednesday. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that she hopes the Planning Board reads their memo and seriously considers including the wind energy part of the ordinance due in part to the fact that it may be an issue for Shrewsbury in the future. Mayor Burden stated that some concerns holding up the ordinance process that include maturing trees that have risen over solar panels, as well as safety concerns voiced by the Hose Company and the Code Enforcement Officer. He explained that solar panels make a roof "hot" and provides an issue to firefighters who have not been trained to handle the situation. Mayor Burden stated that everyone wants to see this ordinance passed. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that she was impressed by Tinton Falls' and Galloway Township's ordinances and the standards set on issues of height, screening, ground array, and reflection. She explained that if the panels are placed on a roof then there are no restrictions for screening because it defeats its purpose, but if the panels are on the ground then screening would be needed. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that these ordinances provide good guidance and cover all of their major concerns. She stated that she and Councilman Menapace would be attending the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that Governor Christie just passed legislation stating that there should be no hindrances for solar panels being installed on a non-porous surface. Mayor Burden stated that Councilman DeSalvo is looking into the possibility of having solar panels installed at the Borough Hall, School, Hose Company, and the Historical Society.

Ms. Loder-Murphy entered the meeting at 7:46pm.

Dr. Pat DiBello questioned who would be liable if firefighters damaged solar panels on a home in the process of fighting a fire, the Hose Company and or the municipality. Ms. Binns stated that it would be similar to any other damage caused by putting a fire out and the homeowner's insurance should cover it. Mayor Burden noted that all the requests for variances for solar panels have been allowed, with one exception which is held up by a

required notice in the Asbury Park Press. Chairwoman Gwydir acknowledged the need for Borough to be involved in the solar panel permit process.

Zoning

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she had received a site plan for Sea Breeze Laundry to place a drop-off trailer within the municipality. It's cleaning would be conducted at the company's main location in Middletown. Ms. Blair stated that the location is Farrell's. Dr. Dibello questioned if it could cause a traffic issue. Mayor Burden inquired about the signage that would be installed, concerned that it would not be aesthetically pleasing. Ms. Blair inquired if a committee could possibly be formed to approve and control signage within the Borough. Dr. DiBello stated that a car dealership once left the Borough because the brand designed sign was not approved for the location.

Councilman DeSalvo and Ms. Pat Kurdyla entered the meeting at 7:58pm.

Councilman DeSalvo stated that he was unaware of Sea Breeze Laundry's request. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that it was only an application and not approved. She informed the Commission that she would keep an eye on it and inquire about landscape and signage for the site.

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she had a wetlands application for 73 Trafalgar Place who is requesting permission from the Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) to clear a six foot wide path through the brush in the back yard for a path leading down to Parkers Creek. She stated that the application requested a four foot wide gravel path, bordered by a foot of grass on each side. Ms. Blair brought up her concern that grass would require up-keep and the possibility of fertilizer use that could run off into the creek. She explained that we could not stop them if they wanted to use fertilizer. Chairwomen Gwydir asked if instead of grass they could plant cat tails.

Tim Thomas, 62 Sickles Place, stated that in freshwater areas like this, grass is used to keep invasive species, like cat tails, out and the DEP would never approve of an invasive species being planted. Mayor Burden stated that Chairwoman Gwydir should speak to Lorraine Kelleher or the Borough Engineer, Dave Cranmer, with any questions she might have regarding the application.

Ms. Binns questioned if the lot on the corner of Patterson Avenue and Shrewsbury Avenue was part of the K. Hovnanian project. Mayor Burden stated that the land was not sold to the developer. Dr. DiBello asked if there would be COAH housing involved in the K. Hovnanian project. Mayor Burden confirmed that COAH housing would be incorporated and that the sales office for the development was located on Broad Street and now open.

Minutes

Dr. DiBello requested that two sentences be rephrased to sound better. A motion was made by Dr. DiBello, seconded by Ms. Binns to approve the Environmental Commission meeting minutes of May 11th 2011 with the rephrasing.

Community Garden

A motion was made by Ms. Binns and seconded by Ms. Blair to open the meeting to the public.

Chairwoman Gwydir introduced Tim Thomas of 62 Sickles Place, and explained that he had come to a Green Team meeting with interest in creating a community garden in Shrewsbury. Mr. Thomas explained that recently his family went on vacation to Hilton Head where they had seen a community garden and thought it would be a good idea for Shrewsbury. He stated that he spoke with Deidre and Greg DerAsadourian along with Councilman DeSalvo who all agreed with him. Mr. Thomas explained that he conducted some research into other local community gardens and their rules and regulations. He also contacted New Jersey Green Acres to see if a community garden was a permitted use for their open space program, which it is. He stated that a

community garden would be a great project for an Eagle Scout and a great way for people like the Master Gardeners to volunteer in the community. Mr. Thomas explained that the fee would be \$20-\$30 per plot of land. He continued stating that if the plot is not maintained, the Borough has the right to reclaim it and resell it. He explained that the Borough would only have to supply the land and water, with Borough residents having first choice on the space.

Mayor Burden explained that Tinton Falls has a 50ft x 90ft community garden with a non-invasive fence that keeps animals out. He continued stating that residents can receive a 10ft x 4 ft plot of land at a low cost but must agree to work in the two sections of the garden. In one section the crops are donated to the Food Bank and the second section the crops are sold to cover the cost of the water. Mayor Burden stated that Tinton Falls have had a great response from the community especially from senior citizens, Master Gardeners, and school aged children. He stated that Oceanport also has a community garden and Red Bank tried to start one, but due to a bad location discontinued it. He expressed the fact that Shrewsbury has the land, water, and security, and a real attempt should be made to form a garden here.

Chairwoman Gwydir questioned if the Council had to establish a non-profit organization to run a community garden. Mr. Thomas stated that the Council would have to designate an organization, like the Garden Club, to handle the money. He explained that all the municipalities charge a fee to offset the town's cost for water and a rototiller rental for the DPW to prepare the ground. Mayor Burden explained that the biggest expense would be the fence which could possibly be donated. He also stated that Tinton Fall's garden had elevated planting beds to help senior citizens who might have difficulty bending down and would like to do the same the if a garden is established.

Mr. Thomas explained that legal issues need to be addressed before moving forward. Chairwoman Gwydir asked if an application had to be made to Green Acres. Mr. Thomas stated that he would look into it. Ms. Binns stated that they could have Master Gardeners and The Grove help with this project. Ms. Blair asked if the fence would be a permanent fixture. Mr. Thomas stated that it would be permanent but could be screened to hide it from view. Mayor Burden explained that Tinton Falls' fence has two feet of green laminated lattice fence with four feet of filament with small pieces of tin foil attached, and stated that it is hard to see from the street.

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she would love to get on board and asked the Mayor to set up a meeting in August with Tinton Falls too discuss their garden. Mayor Burden stated that we should figure out the fence situation first before getting to excited. Mr. Thomas stated that this winter we could possibly tarp the land to prepare it for the spring and get soil tests conducted.

Solar

Councilman DeSalvo stated that he is looking at various methods to get solar panels for the Borough's many buildings including Borough Hall, Hose Company, Historical Society, and DPW. He explained that through many of these methods you can get solar panels for free and energy at a discounted rate and/or sell it. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the school was very interested in participating if the Borough moved forward on solar panels. Dr. DiBello offered to help Councilman DeSalvo in this process.

Sustainable NJ

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that the last meeting of Sustainable NJ was on June 29th. She stated that actions are being completed and they have six finished actions completed for a total of 55 points. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she still had to submit the paper work for the rain garden and the energy audit of Borough Hall to receive points for it.

Ms. Binns stated that the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) took longer than expected and stated that she will work on it in August. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that Borough Engineer Dave Cranmer offered to do the necessary maps for free and added that this was a priority action. Mayor Burden stated that the Shade Tree

Commission would be meeting that Tuesday morning to finish their part. Chairwomen Gwydir stated that the Forest Report is worth a total of 50 points. She explained that they are also working on the 'No Idling' campaign and stated that they need to post signs at the school, parks, post office, and Starbucks. Chairwoman Gwydir informed the Commission that they had received permission to use the League of Women Voter's flyer in the back to school paperwork to make parents more aware of the resolution.

Councilman DeSalvo left the meeting at 8:43pm.

Ms. Blair asked how idling buses would be handled. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she will ask the Superintendent. She stated that they are able to get signs from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at a low cost and have the Department of Public Works (DPW) install them. She continued stating that she would like to see six different areas with the signs installed by November including the post office and Starbucks. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that the resolution is in place. Ms. Blair stated that when they receive the Sustainable NJ status that they should try to get some media publicity for the accomplishment.

Rain Barrel

Ms. Blair stated that they had a great day for the Rain Barrel Workshop at the Shrewsbury Hose Co. with 17 people in attendance. She stated that the location worked out well and thanked various people for their contributions of baked goods. Ms. Blair stated that people got dirty and had fun. Chairwoman Gwydir gave Ms. Blair kudos for getting the barrels for the event. Mayor Burden asked if there was enough of a demand to hold another workshop. Ms. Blair stated that she would love to do it again and it might be discussed at the next Garden Club meeting. Mayor Burden suggested doing a collaborative workshop between Shrewsbury and Red Bank stating that it would probably get more publicity. Ms. Blair stated that the workshop made them a total of \$14.00 but would definitely do again. Chairwoman Gwydir thanked Ms. Blair for a great job.

Recognizing Sue Binns

Chairwoman Gwydir stated that she wanted to recognize Sue Binns for her effort and commitment all the years that she has been a member of the Environmental Commission. She told Ms. Binns that people like her only come around once in a lifetime. Ms. Binns stated that she was not ready to leave Shrewsbury to which Ms. Blair informed her that she can always come and visit. Chairwoman Gwydir stated that her friendship and service would be very hard to replace.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Binns, seconded by Dr. DiBello, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Attest: _____
Bonnie Brookes, Commission Secretary