

MENDHAM BOROUGH OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES 1/9/2014

Meeting Location: Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ

- 1. Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Connolly, at 7:05 PM.**
- 2. Adequate Notice Statement: Notice of this meeting was published in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and was posted on the Phoenix House bulletin.**
- 3. Oaths of Office, should have been taken in advance:**
 - a. John Andrus, Council Representative – Regular Member: 12-31-14**
 - b. William DeBuvitz, Vice Chair – Regular Member: 12-31-16**
 - c. Peter Barry – Regular Member: 12-31-16**

4. Roll Call:

George Connolly, Chair, Present

William DeBuvitz, Vice Chair, Present

David Sprandel, Secretary, Present

John Andrus, Council Representative, Present

Peter Barry, Absent

Adam Slutsky, Present

Charles Topping, Present

Alternates:

Keith McNair, Absent

5. Reorganization & Resolutions

a. Election of Officers

- 1. Mr. Debuwitz moved, Mr Slutsky seconded and all approved that Mr. Connolly continue to serve as the Chairman of the committee.**
- 2. Mr. Connolly moved, Mr. Slutsky seconded and all approved that Mr. DeBuvitz continue to serve as the Vice Chairman of the committee.**
- 3. Mr. Connolly moved, Mr. DeBuvitz seconded and all approved that Mr. Sprandel continue to serve as Secretary of the committee.**

- b. Approval of Meeting Dates – Mr. DeBuvitz moved, Mr. Sprandel seconded and all approved the meeting dates proposed in the attached resolution OS Resolution – Meeting Dates.**

- c. Approval of Newspapers - Mr. Topping moved, Mr. DeBuvitz seconded and all approved the names of the newspapers to receive notice of our meetings as proposed in the attached resolution OS Resolution – Newspapers.
- 6. Approval of Minutes – Mr. Connolly moved, Mr. Slutsky seconded and all approved the minutes of the 12/12/2013 meeting.
- 7. Public Comment – None
- 8. Borough Council Update – Mr. Andrus reported that Mr. Connolly and Mr. Sprandel attended the Borough Council reorganization meeting on Monday January 2, 2013. During the meeting Mr. Connolly presented letters of commendation, along with an accompanying picture, to Borough Administrator Ellen Sandman, Borough Maintenance Head Ken O'Brien and Borough Council Attorney Fred Semrau for their work in establishing Tranquility Garden. All the recipients appeared to be very surprised, especially Mr. Semrau who quipped "Attorneys never get recognized!", and expressed utmost gratitude for their recognition.
- 9. Financial Report – The current balance is \$725,999.
- 10. Old Business
 - a. Tranquility Garden – Mr. Topping suggested we have TG added to the booklet called "The Mendhams" published annually by the Mendham Borough Recreation Commission. Mr. Topping suggested that, perhaps, we could have written up an appropriate description of the garden and see that it is included in the next edition of the booklet. Also, Mr. Topping suggested a description could be added to the Our Town section of the Observer Tribune. Mr. Andrus commented an excellent candidate to do those two things would be Mrs. Sandman.
 - b. Cosma Lake Property – Mr. Connolly reported to the council that due to the uncertainties involved, viz. deteriorating dam, pollution concerns, easements, with this property that it not be taken over by the Borough.
 - c. Scott Farm Property – Mr. Connolly reported to the Borough Council of our interest in the property and Mayor Henry commented that he has given Mrs. Sandman some requests for further investigation but he did not discuss what those were. Mr. Topping reported there could be historic preservation interest in the property if there could be found an ownership connection to either John Cary and/or Ebenezer Byram as they were involved with the formation of Mendham.
 - d. Other – None.
- 11. New Business
 - a. 31 Ironia Rd. – Mr. Connolly reported this property is for sale. It is a house on what property that seems to be somewhat narrow but quite long as he

believes It may extend all the way back to the Deerfield development. It is contiguous to the Borough's maintenance garage.

- b. Morris County Open Space Survey – This is a rather large document containing many pages. Mr. Connolly will email a copy to the group for our perusal.
 - c. TD Bank Building Property – We would certainly like to keep the Phoenix House (PH) regardless of whether or not the administrative offices moved. Perhaps the PH could be turned over to the historical society which would then make available a place for the society to display the many historic artifacts which it owns.
 - d. Committee Membership – Mr. Connolly has sent an e-mail to Mr. McNair to inquire if he wishes to continue with the committee. No reply as of today.
 - e. Other – Mr. Sprandel suggested that rather than relying on the members to see For Sale signs displayed around town it would be convenient if the committee could keep abreast of all the properties that come up for sale in the Borough in some more complete and automated way. Mr. Slutsky said he thought that this could be done using an online search at Zillow.com. Then we could make a comparison of search results with the properties having tier A/B/C priority.
12. Adjournment – Mr. Debuwitz moved, Mr. Sprandel seconded and all approved we adjourn at 8:35 PM.
- a. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 3/13/2014, at 7:00PM.

Daniel Sprandel
3/13/2013