

**MINUTES
PLANNING BOARD
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
November 3, 2014**

Mr. Thomas Franko called the Regular Meeting of the Planning Board to order at 7:30 P.M.

Adequate notice of the meetings of the Planning Board of the Township of Chatham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice in the form of a Resolution setting forth the schedule of meetings for the year 2014 and January 2015 was published in the *Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record*, a copy was filed with the Municipal Clerk and a copy was placed on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building.

Answering present to the roll call were Mr. Franko, Mr. Hurring, Mrs. Swartz, Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Brower, Mr. Ciccarone, Ms. Hagner, Mr. Travisano and Mr. Saluzzi. Mr. McCaffrey was absent.

Also present were Board Engineer John Ruschke, Township Planner Frank Banisch and Planning Board Attorney Steven Warner, Esq.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hurring moved to approve the August 4, 2014 minutes. Ms. Hagner seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, with an abstention from Mr. Ciccarone.

Mr. Hurring noted that the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting should reflect that Township Planner Frank Banisch was present. Mr. Saluzzi noted that he was present as well. Mrs. Abbott noted that Complete Streets should be capitalized. Mr. LaConte said that he would make the changes.

Mr. Brower moved to approve the October 20, 2014 minutes as amended. Mrs. Abbott seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with abstentions from Mr. Ciccarone and Mr. Travisano.

Memorialization

Natural Resources Inventory

Mr. Franko said that in order for the Township to receive Sustainable Jersey points for having a Natural Resources Inventory, the Planning Board needs to pass a resolution adopting the document.

Mr. Travisano moved to pass the resolution adopting the Natural Resources Inventory. Mr. Hurring seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Franko, Aye; Mr. Hurring, Aye; Mrs. Swartz, Aye; Mrs. Abbott, Abstain; Mr. Brower, Abstain; Mr. Ciccarone, Abstain; Ms. Hagner, Aye; Mr. Travisano, Aye; Mr. Saluzzi, Abstain; Mr. McCaffrey, Absent.

Discussion

2015 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Swartz said that some of the dates on the proposed list appear to be typographical errors, as they are Tuesdays. Mr. LaConte noted that in cases where there is Monday holiday on a 1st or 3rd Monday, the Planning Board meeting will be shifted to the following Monday. The list will be further reviewed.

Circulation Plan Element

Mr. Banisch gave a presentation on Complete Streets. He noted that the Circulation Plan updates do not have a specific capital improvement plan. Mr. Banisch commented on survey results which indicate that people are interested in driving less and finding alternate means of transportation. He also discussed several measures that can be used to improve transportation of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mr. Ciccarone questioned the relevance of the Complete Streets philosophy to the realities of Chatham Township. He said that some of the items that this plan would make mandatory have already been accomplished in recent major developments, and he wondered when the items in the plan would come into play. Mr. Ciccarone also said that the plan implies that the streets in Chatham Township are not safe, and he does not think that the statistics provided show that there is any lack of safety. Mrs. Abbott replied that the plan seeks to improve connectivity and allow people to safely travel by walking rather than driving.

Ms. Hagner said that the proposal has some general comments, and it should be specific to Chatham Township. Mrs. Swartz noted that most of the busy roads in Chatham Township are county roads, and the Township cannot dictate to Morris County.

Ms. Hagner said that she does not think that public transportation is something on which the Master Plan should focus.

Mrs. Swartz asked if the objective of the plan is to anticipate a paradigm shift, or if it should address conditions as they are presently. Mr. Banisch opined that a paradigm shift is already taking place, albeit slowly.

Mr. Ciccarone questioned if a 53-page document is necessary to convey that the Township wants Morris County to improve certain intersections, and suggested that a letter to the County could serve that purpose. He also questioned when Complete Streets and circulation plans became synonymous. Mr. Franko said that Complete Streets is the current philosophy on how best to create a circulation plan. Mr. Ciccarone expressed concern about having Complete Streets as part of the Master Plan. Mr. Banisch said that the policy being in the Master Plan would not be able to compel the Township Committee to do anything that they did not want to do.

Mr. Travisano asked if the Township Committee's opinions of Complete Streets has been sought. Ms. Hagner said that efforts were made when she was Mayor, and there was disagreement on the Committee at the time.

Mr. Ciccarone raised a concern about discussion in the proposal about easements and paper streets. Paragraphs 11 and 12 were removed from the document.

Ms. Hagner questioned the references to the Safe Routes to School Committee in the document. Mr. Ciccarone noted that the Township Committee has not appointed the Safe Routes to School Committee. Mrs. Abbott said that it is an ad hoc committee. Mrs. Chambers said that the document addressed changes that have been made in the Township since 1999 when the Circulation Plan was last updated.

Mr. Ciccarone also raised an issue with any reference to the circulation plan requiring anything. He suggested that the language be changed to have recommendations rather than requirements.

Various minor edits were made in the language in some following sections.

Mrs. Abbott discussed the benefit of having crossing guards at crosswalks near schools. Mr. Ciccarone said that the proposed circulation plan states that the Safe Routes to School Committee has made headway in the installation of more crossing guards, which implies that the Committee will be pushing for more. Mr. Banisch added that it suggests that the Planning Board is advocating for more crossing guards.

Mr. Ciccarone moved to adjourn at 9:34 PM. Mr. Travisano seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Planning Board Recording Secretary